FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 JANUARY 1984

Lebanon

Security Plan — Unnamed officials in Beirut stated that Israel and Syria have agreed to a new security plan and that Lebanon will ask the countries participating in the Multinational Force to leave their troops in Lebanon to express support for it, IDF Radio announced on 5 January. Monitored Syrian and Lebanese media have not thus far confirmed Syria's agreement to the plan. Phalange leader Pierre al-Jumayyil announced that his party fully approves the security plan, declaring that the Phalangists are willing to hand over their positions in Al-Kharrub and southern coastal areas to the government and also propose to take "other steps" to end the dispute in the mountains and suburbs south of Beirut, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan gave a detailed explanation of the plan to the Cabinet while Foreign Minister Elie Salim held talks with its Saudi sponsor, Rafiq al-Hariri, Beirut radio noted.

Military/Security Situation — The toll from the Israeli air raid on targets near Ba'labakk rose to 100 killed and 400 wounded with the figures expected to rise as rescue operations continue, Beirut radio reported. In the Sidon area, an Israeli tank was damaged by a land mine on 5 January, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Army positions near Beirut came under fire and rival militias again clashed in the Al-Kharrub district and in Tripoli, the radio said.

Voice of Lebanon asserted that the Syrian military command has ordered the Hittin and Al-Yarmuk brigades of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) to leave the 'Akkar and Al-Biqa' regions and reassemble in Syria following intelligence discovery that some soldiers have established secret cells loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

PLO Affairs

At the conclusion of its meetings in Tunis, the Fatah Central Committee issued a lengthy statement on a wide range of subjects including Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, according to KUNA and Radio Monte Carlo. KUNA said the statement described the visit as an "organizational violation" that contradicted decision-making procedures within Fatah and the PLO, while Radio Monte Carlo asserted that it did not criticize the visit but merely noted that it was a "personal initiative" that "surprised" the other Central Committee members. The radio noted that the statement quoted 'Arafat as telling the Central Committee that his visit was a "violation of the Camp David agreements." The statement also announced the Central Committee's resolve to strengthen collective leadership within Fatah and the PLO and to establish a subcommittee to determine the nature of relations with Egypt in coordination with the PLO Executive Committee, KUNA reported.

"Informed Palestinian sources" cited by Amman's *AD-DUSTUR* asserted that 'Arafat made his visit to Cairo conditional on acceptance of his demands that Egypt host the 'Ayn Jalut Brigade of the PLA and reopen the PLO office and radio station in Cairo. Egyptian officials "approved" these conditions, and this is "very important, because it cancels Article 6 of the Camp David accords," the report added.

In other developments, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported that the PLO's Higher Military Council resolved to expel five officers including PLA commander Colonel Tariq al-Khadra and Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha. Meanwhile, a three-member delegation representing the DFLP, PFLP, and Palestine Communist Party flew from Damascus to Tunis to meet with Fatah leaders, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Jordan

Royal decrees were issued 5 January dissolving the National Consultative Council and inviting the former House of Representatives and Parliament to convene to consider amendments to the Consitution, Amman radio reported. According to a correspondent of the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS*, the most significant of the proposed amendments grants the government authority to appoint West Bank deputies and hold elections in the remainder of the country. The reorganization, "taken in cooperation and coordination with the PLO," will also include the formation of a new cabinet.

Syria

Damascus radio acknowledged President Reagan's message to President Hafiz al-Asad thanking him for the release of Lieutenant Robert Goodman and expressing hope for dialogue between the two sides. Earlier, a radio commentary stressed that the pilot was released for humanitarian reasons, to express Syria's respect and appreciation for U.S. leaders and groups opposed to the U.S. policies of "war and aggression" in the Middle East and to emphasize that its dispute with the Reagan administration does not mean that Syria is at odds with the American people.

Egypt

The peace treaty with Israel does not restrict the steps that Egypt can take in the interest of peace, Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din told the People's Assembly in a statement reported by Cairo radio. Meanwhile, after returning from Jordan and Iraq, Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz said Egypt intends to contact other Arab sides in an attempt to formulate a collective Arab peace move focusing on the Palestinian issue but not disregarding the "Syrian dimension," MENA reported.

Tunisia

Tunis and other towns resumed normal activities on 5 January after calm and security were restored following the declaration of a state of emergency and the imposition of a curfew, Tunis radio announced. Paris radio reported that the calm in the capital was "precarious" and said tension remains high between the population and the security forces, especially in the poorer districts, where helicopters fired at people lining up for bread because gatherings of more than three people are banned. The National Transport Company announced that the resumption of normal service will be gradual because over 200 of its buses were wrecked in rioting on 3 January, according to Tunis radio. In an interview with Paris radio, the head of the General Union of Tunisian Workers said that although his organization was not involved in the riots, it may call for a general strike if the government does not revoke its "restrictive measures."

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi discussed the events in Tunisia in a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, JANA reported. They agreed that Libya and Tunisia should coordinate and cooperate and that a Libyan delegation would be sent to Tunisia on 5 January.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 003 *5 January 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Fatah CC Issues Statement on 'Arafat Cairo Visit *[KUNA]* ..... A 1
AFP Report on Communique ..... A 1
Cairo Visit Camp David 'Violation' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... A 2
Palestinian Delegation Departs Amman For Tunis *[AR-RA'Y 5 Jan]* ..... A 2
Amman Paper on Reasons for 'Arafat's Cairo Visit *[AD-DUSTUR 4 Jan]* ..... A 2
Baghdad PLO Radio on Release of U.S. Pilot ..... A 2
PFLP Official Comments on Israeli Air Raid *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... A 3
Baghdad PLO Radio Reports West Bank Attack ..... A 3
Soviet Magazine Interviews PLO Envoy Ash-Sha'ir *[cross-reference]* ..... A 3

OPEC AFFAIRS

Saudi Arabia's Yamani on Nigeria's OPEC Role *[NAN]* ..... B 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Returns From European Visit ..... C 1

KUWAIT

National Assembly Speaker Greets PRC Visitors ..... C 1

OMAN

Sultan Qabus Receives Saudi Message ..... C 1
Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives 5 Jan ..... C 1

QATAR

Papers Laud Syrian Release of U.S. Pilot ..... C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

YAR Foreign Minister Leaves Riyadh for Home ..... C 2
Burundi Foreign Minister Nzeyimana Visits ..... C 2
Papers Comment on U.S. Pilot's Release ..... C 2
Syrian-U.S. Relations Seen As Improving ..... C 2

UAE

Paper on Syria's Release of U.S. Prisoner *[KHALEEJ TIMES 4 Jan]* ..... C 2

EGYPT

AL-'ALAM Interviews Mubarak on Policy ..... D 1
Mubarak Receives Al-Baz on His Return From Iraq ..... D 4
Al-Baz on Visits, Policy ..... D 4
Mubarak Cables Numayri on Independence Day ..... D 5

Muhyi ad-Din on Current Issues With Israel ..... D 5
Makes Statement to Assembly ..... D 5
Butrus Ghali Interviewed on Palestinian Issue *[WAKH]* ..... D 6
Presidential Decree on New Suez Canal Director ..... D 6
Reportage on Parties' Election Participation ..... D 6
Wafd Party To Participate ..... D 6
Socialist Party To Enter ..... D 6
Socialist Labor Party Congress Resolutions *[ASH-SHA'B 27 Dec]* ..... D 6
NPUG Calls for Stand Against U.S.-Israeli Pact *[AL-AHALI 28 Dec]* ..... D 7
MAY Criticizes U.S. Withdrawal From UNESCO *[2 Jan]* ..... D 10
AL-AKHBAR Wants U.S. To Check Israel Aggression ..... D 11
New Oilfield Enhances Western Desert Reserves ..... D 11
U.S. Congressional Delegation Departs Cairo ..... D 11
Oman's Az-Zawawi in Cairo on 1-Day Visit ..... D 11
Departs After Talks ..... D 11
Reportage on Inauguration of Nile Valley Radio ..... D 11
Sudanese Information Minister Arrives ..... D 11
Meets Ash-Sharif ..... D 11
Meets Mubarak ..... D 12
Departs 2 Jan ..... D 12
Mubarak Welcomes Radio Opening ..... D 12

IRAQ

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,331 ..... E 1
ATH-THAWRAH Claims Nation Has 'New' Weapons ..... E 1
Army 'Capable' of Defending 'Any' Arab Country ..... E 1
Air Force Commander on Iranian, Civilian Targets ..... E 1
Naval Commander on Capabilities, Iranian Losses ..... E 1
Radio Reports Message Sent to Perez de Cuellar ..... E 2
Newly Appointed Ministers Sworn In 4 January ..... E 2
Hamid 'Alwan Leaves for Indonesia, Malaysia ..... E 2
21 Syrian Officers Reportedly Killed in Accident ..... E 2
Correction to Communique No 1,329 ..... E 2

JORDAN

King Dissolves NCC, Recalls Parliamant ..... F 1
AL-QABAS Dispatch *[3 Jan]* ..... F 1

LEBANON

Reportage on Preparation of Security Plan ..... G 1
Al-Jumayyil Briefs Cabinet ..... G 1
Qassis To Hold Damascus Talks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... G 1
Al-Hariri Arrives in Beirut *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 1
Salim Meets Al-Hariri ..... G 1
Phalangists 'Fully Approve' Plan ..... G 1
Foreign Ministers To Meet *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... G 2
Salim Briefs Arab, UK Envoys on Lebanese Efforts ..... G 2
Armed 'Communists' Prepare To Enter Tripoli ..... G 2
'Free Lebanon' Army Members Replace Israelis ..... G 2
VOL: Syria Withdrawing Palestinian Brigades ..... G 2
Kuwaiti Daily: Soviet Envoy Proposes USSR Role *[AS-SIYASAH 3 Jan]* ..... G 2

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Cable of Thanks From Reagan ..... H 1
Press on U.S. Reaction to Release of Pilot ..... H 1
Commentary on Releasing U.S. Pilot Goodman ..... H 2
French Move Called 'Political Maneuver' ..... H 2

Khaddam Receives Iranian Assistant Minister ..... H 2
Az-Zu'bi Sends Message to Parliaments on Situation ..... H 2
Reaction to Baghdad Agreement With Kurds Cited ..... H 3
Iraqi Front Condemns Agreement ..... H 3
Ba'thists Criticize Agreement ..... H 3

ISRAEL

Government, Syria Reportedly Agree on Lebanon Plan ..... I 1
AP Cited on Plan ..... I 1
Further Details ..... I 1
Senior Officials 'Fear' Possible U.S.-Syrian Dialogue *['AL HAMISHMAR 5 Jan]* ..... I 2
Schiffer Assesses Lebanon Consultations ..... I 2
Correspondent on 'Unconditional' Withdrawal *[MA'ARIV 5 Jan]* ..... I 3
POST on Troops in Lebanon, Air Force Raid *[5 Jan]* ..... I 3
Press on Lebanon, Territories ..... I 4
Further Press Commentary ..... I 4
Defense 'Source' on IDF Manpower Cutbacks *[HA'ARETZ 4 Jan]* ..... I 4
PORI Poll: Majority Fears Imminent War With Syria *[HA'ARETZ 5 Jan]* ..... I 4
Reportage on Visit by U.S. Senator John Tower ..... I 5
Arrives 4 January ..... I 5
Holds East Jerusalem Meeting *['AL HAMISHMAR 5 Jan]* ..... I 5
Conveys Message for Al-Asad *[MA'ARIV 5 Jan]* ..... I 5
Prime Minister Shamir Meets Israeli Arabs ..... I 5
Arens on Rearrest of Released Ansar POW's ..... I 5
Arens: Jordan Has Not Abandoned Rabat Resolutions *[MA'ARIV 5 Jan]* ..... I 5
Jordanian Parliament To Include W. Bank Residents *[MA'ARIV 4 Jan]* ..... I 6
Former Jordanian MP's Depart ..... I 6
Gaza Delegation Prohibited From Leaving for Egypt *['AL HAMISHMAR 5 Jan]* ..... I 6
Hand Grenade Thrown at IDF Position in Gaza 4 Jan ..... I 6
Foreign Ministry Protests to Italian Ambassador ..... I 6
POST: Strikes May Paralyze Local Authorities *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Jan]* ..... I 6
Jesse Jackson Interviewed in U.S. by IDF Radio ..... I 7
MA'ARIV: Syria Receiving Vast Amounts of Soviet Arms *[4 Jan]* ..... I 8
Lebanon Court Orders Haddad Military Rank Restored ..... I 8

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

Palestinian Body Calls for National Conference ..... Q 1
French Foreign Ministry Official Visits ..... Q 1
Army's Jabir Receives Upper Volta Official ..... Q 1

TUNISIA

Sporadic Violence Continues in 'Bread Revolt' ..... Q 1
Demonstrations, Fires in Jendouba *[Paris]* ..... Q 1
'Precarious' Calm in Tunis *[Paris]* ..... Q 1
Other Areas Reported Calm ..... Q 1
Medical Workers Summoned ..... Q 2
Buses Destroyed, Services Disrupted ..... Q 2
Review of 3 January Events ..... Q 2
Mzali Speaks on Disturbances ..... Q 2
Trade Union Leader Comments on Price Situation *[Paris]* ..... Q 3
Union Leaders Meet With Government Officials ..... Q 4

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

SNM Leader Begins Tour of 'Friendly Countries' *[Radio Halgan]* ..... R 1
U.S. Technician Said Killed by Government *[Radio Halgan]* ..... R 1
Government Accused of 'Exterminating' Civilians *[Radio Halgan]* ..... R 1

UGANDA

400,000 Exiles Said Returning From Zaire, Sudan *[Dar es Salaam]* ..... R 1
UK Offers Technical Aid for Ugandan Mass Media ..... R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

President Biya Views 1983, Upcoming Elections ..... S 1

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

President Kolingba Reveals 1984 Economic Goals ..... S 2

CHAD

Libyan-Backed Forces Seen Threatening Northwest ..... S 2
Habre Reaffirms Desire for Accord at OAU Meeting ..... S 3
Government, Rebels Reach Cease-fire Agreement *[SUNA]* ..... S 3
Goukouni Oueddei Delivers New Year's Address *[Radio Bardai]* ..... S 4

GABON

Italy's Andreotti Arrives, Visits Railway Project ..... S 4

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

GRAPHIC Comments on Nigerian Military Takeover ..... T 1

LIBERIA

Doe Comments on Foreign Policy, Economy ..... T 1
Former Envoy to USSR Assigned to Taiwan ..... T 1
Trial of Alleged Plotters To Resume 4 Jan ..... T 1

NIGERIA

Buhari Holds 'World Press Conference' in Lagos ..... T 1
More on Buhari's Comments to SMC Members ..... T 2
Buhari Addresses Diplomatic Corps at State House ..... T 2
On 'Corrective' Security Measures ..... T 2
On Bribery, 'Political Thuggery' ..... T 3
Will Not Condone Interference ..... T 3
Buhari Addresses State Military Governors ..... T 3
Country Will Remain 'Total Member' of OPEC ..... T 3
Former Minister, NPN Chairman 'Wanted Persons' ..... T 3
Nigerian Airways Resumes Normal Operations ..... T 4
Reportage on Conditions in Federation's States ..... T 4
Former Bendel Politicians Report ..... T 4

Former Ogun Officials Arrested ..... T 4
Oyo Authorities on Martial Law ..... T 4
Soldier Killed in Plateau Market ..... T 4
Commentary Claims Coup Met With 'Sigh of Relief' ..... T 5
Press Editorials Reported in Wake of Coup ..... T 5

SENEGAL

Abdou Diouf's New Year Message Reported ..... T 6

UPPER VOLTA

Former Head of State Denies Embezzlement Charges ..... T 6

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Truce Acceptable 'Under Certain Conditions' ..... U 1
President Dos Santos Delivers New Year Address ..... U 1
Luanda Claims Further CBW Use, UNITA Defeats ..... U 3

BOTSWANA

Opposition Party Predicts Chaos After Elections ..... U 3

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Addresses Reception for Diplomatic Corps ..... U 4

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Condemns S. African Incursion into Angola *[Addis Ababa]* ..... U 4
'Excuse' To Invade Angola *[Umtata Capital Radio]* ..... U 4

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Confirms Soviet Warning on Angola ..... U 5
Ambassador to UN Reviews RSA Truce Terms ..... U 5
Government Apologizes for Assault on Zimbabwean ..... U 6
Police Announce ANC Operative Killed in Shootout ..... U 6
Botha Responds to Labor Party Call for Elections ..... U 6
ANC Scores 'Cinderella' Illusions *[Umtata Capital Radio]* ..... U 7

SWAZILAND

Testimony Begins in Sedition Trial of Princess ..... U 7

ZAMBIA

Angola's Da Moura Departs After Call on Kaunda ..... U 7

Fatah CC Issues Statement on 'Arafat Cairo Visit

LD041926 Kuwait KUNA in English 1647 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, Jan 4 (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Cairo constituted an organizational violation and a contradiction to the style adopted by Fatah and the PLO in adopting resolutions, a statement by the Fatah Central Committee meeting here said.

The Central Committee's attitude towards the visit to Cairo by 'Arafat, who is also leader of Fatah the main commando movement, is not directed against the constructive efforts to bring Egypt back into the Arab arena, the statement which followed a five day meeting of the Central Committee added.

A number of internal resolutions were also adopted to strengthen collective leadership within the Central Committee and other Palestinian institutions, it stressed.

"We are not against efforts to persuade Egypt to drop Camp David policies and consequently to undertake its lead role once again," the statement emphasized.

With its historical background and capabilities, Egypt is well placed as an effective force towards realizing Arab unity, the statement added.

The Central Committe resolved on forming a subcommittee to determine the form of relations with Egypt in coordination with the Executive Committee of the PLO in light of the resolution adopted at the latter's meeting held on 17-18 March 1983, it said.

The Central Committee indirectly criticized the Arab states for failure to respond to a French appeal for providing symbolic participation in the protection of ships which evacuated Palestinian fighters from Tripoli.

"With exception of Egyptian naval forces, no other country participated with France in that operation from its start to the final destination" the Central Committee statement added.

The statement said 'Arafat was further quoted in the statement as saying "Egypt's return to the Arab arena should not be left to her own self-effort but needs an Arab initiative that will create an opportunity towards that objective."

The committee reiterated rejection to the Israeli-Lebanese agreement and considered it "a continuation to the settlements of surrender approach in the area and a bowing for the idea of imposing the American-Israeli peace by force".

The Central Committee also reiterated "rejection to the idea of the substitute homeland in Jordan and considered that idea a cover for the Zionist enemy to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

The committee also said the "Zionist enemy's policy of dislocating the Palestinian camps in our occupied homeland to the Jordan valley is part of that conspiracy."

The Fatah Central Committee affirmed "its complete abidance by the resolutions of the Palestine National Council and rejection to any deviation."

It also affirmed its "rejection to all plans which do not recognize the right of our people to return to their lands and establish their independent state on their homeland, which means a rejection to President Reagan plan and the self-rule project adopted by the Camp David accords."

As for the dialogue with Jordan, the Central Committee statement said this dialogue "whether on bilateral relations or political activities is based on commitment by the PNC resolutions and the Fes summit."

The statement reviewed the battles fought by Fatah forces in the Al-Biqa' and north Lebanon against the opposition Palestinian forces and strongly attacked the opposition forces and hailed the Palestinian fighters, and "our Arab brothers who stand with us and support our march."

The statement also hailed the Palestinian masses in and outside the occupied territories and called on them to continue the struggle against the Zionist enemy and its allies and to continue backing the legitimate leadership of the Palestinian revolution.

AFP Report on Communique

NC041816 Paris AFP in English 1802 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] Tunis, Jan 4 (AFP) — A week-long meeting of Fatah, the main group in the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), ended victoriously today for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who emerged uncriticised for his controversial December 22 meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

In a 15-page final communique, Fatah's Central Committee charged that Libya and Syria had conspired against the PLO.

The allegation referred to support by those countries for PLO dissidents who drove Mr 'Arafat and 4,000 loyalists out of Lebanon, observers said.

But the statement countered expectations that Mr 'Arafat would be chided for his unauthorised meeting with President Mubarak.

The PLO broke off links with Egypt when former Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat signed the Camp David Accords which recognised Israel.

In a veiled allusion to undemocratic leadership practices, today's communique said that the 10 other Fatah co-founders were "surprised" by the Cairo meeting, which took place without their knowledge, and was considered a personal initiative by Mr 'Arafat.

The meeting, some sessions of which have been described as 'stormy" by 'Arafat aides, should be followed here tomorrow by a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee.

Cairo Visit Camp David 'Violation'

JN042109 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Jan 84

[From "Panorama"]

[Excerpt] Three pages of the 15-page Fatah Central Committee statement were devoted to defending Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo. The statement said that Abu 'Ammar had reconfirmed to the Central Committee members that his visit to Cairo was a violation of the Camp David agreements and does not mean joining the peace process between Egypt and Israel, as the opponents said.

'Arafat stressed that he had not made any political agreement with the Egyptian president but reiterated to him that the PLO rejects the Palestinian autonomy plan.

Palestinian Delegation Departs Amman For Tunis

JN050827 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Jan 84 pp 1, 19

[Excerpts] Tunis — In response to an urgent cable from Yasir 'Arafat, Colonel Na'im Al-Khatib, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan, left Amman the day before yesterday to participate in the current deliberations in Tunis, and to attend the meetings of the Higher Miitary Council of which he is a member.

Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, PLO Executive Committee member, left Amman for Tunis yesterday to participate in the meetings of the Executive Committee. Representatives of the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Communist Party, and the Arab Struggle Front are expected to arrive in Tunis today to meet with Yasir 'Arafat and the Fatah Central Committee members.

A reliable Palestinian source has stated that Abu 'Ammar and the Fatah Central Committee members will receive these delegations on condition that that Palestinian differences be discussed within the legitimate institutions and not in statements and news conferences.

The Palestinian source said that the Palestinian people's struggle has triumphed in safeguarding the independence of the PLO and Palestinian decisionmaking, and that the dissidents are isolated from the masses. He added that the dissidents and the other parties that besieged Tripoli were themselves besieged by the Palestinian people who declared their complete support for their legitimate leadership.

Amman Paper on Reasons for 'Arafat's Cairo Visit

JN041904 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Jan 84 pp 1, 21

[Salim al-Ma'ani dispatch]

[Excerpts] Tunis (news agencies) — The Fatah Central Committee has decided to extend the period of its meetings in order to examine the current political situation and developments in the Palestine question. The committee resumed its meetings last night to discuss the statement which was drafted by a three-man committee and which tackles all political issues on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

In the meantime, informed Palestinian sources yesterday disclosed to *AD-DUSTUR* the reasons that prompted Yasir 'Arafat to visit Cairo.

These sources said that Abu 'Ammar had not planned to visit Cairo or meet with the Egyptian president. His ship, which docked at Ismailia, was on its way to San'a'. However, Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Egyptian prime minister; Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, the adviser to the Egyptian president, told 'Arafat that Israel had addressed a warning to Egypt and that Egypt wanted to hit back by making Israel understand that the Egyptians will not submit to Israeli threats, warnings, or pressures. They said that the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting would be the best reply to those Israeli threats.

These sources, which are close to the PLO leader, added that 'Arafat requested that he first consult with the Palestinian elements accompanying him on the ship. Later, 'Arafat told the Egyptian officials that he had three conditions for accepting the visit. These were:

1. Egypt should host the 'Ayn Jalut Brigade of the Palestinian Liberation Army, which was stationed in Egypt before As-Sadat's visit to Israel.

2. The PLO office in Cairo should be reopened.

3. The Voice of Palestine radio in Cairo should be reopened under PLO supervision.

The sources said that the Egyptian officials discussed these conditions and approved them.

The sources pointed out that the acceptance of these conditions is very important, because it cancels article six of the Camp David accords which provides that both sides shall refrain from hosting or harboring hostile forces.

The Egyptian-Palestinian agreement that preceded 'Arafat's visit to Cairo is expected to be implemented next month.

Baghdad PLO Radio on Release of U.S. Pilot

JN041856 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1544 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Syrian regime's release of U.S. pilot Goodman took place in a ceremonial manner in which Syrian Foreign Ministry officials, U.S. visitors, and the Reverend Jesse Jackson participated. This release crowned the Syrian-U.S. contacts, which have never ceased or stopped. The release operation represents one side of the Syrian yielding to the Americans, regardless of the huge Syrian information campaign against the United States.

This campaign has been the main amusement of the Syrian media, which employ the same campaign to cover the Syrian-U.S. contacts, negotiations, and agreements.

For example, we all recall the Al-Asad-Carter meeting in 1976 which resulted in the Syrian regime's intervention in Lebanon to undermine the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement. The aforementioned meeting outlined the course of the Syrian policy, which gained the consensus and supervision of the United States and led to a series of Syrian-U.S. agreements. That meeting was considered as the primary and first basis for several Syrian-U.S. agreements that are no less important than the Camp David agreements. It is true that the latter agreements prevented Egypt from acting militarily and politically against Israel, but the Al-Asad-Carter 1976 meeting, the Syrian policy after that date, the Syrian regime's attack on the Palestinian revolution, its failure to interfere in the Peace for Galilee Operation in 1982, the removal of the Palestinian revolution from the contact lines with the enemy, the siege it imposed on the Palestinian fighters in northern Lebanon, and its deportation of the Palestinian fighters leave no room for doubting the Syrian regime's role against the Palestinian revolution and the Arab liberation movement in general. This role is based on secret Syrian-U.S. agreements, which are a verbatim copy of the Camp David agreements but are masked by Syrian information campaigns hostile to U.S. imperialism.

The Arab masses understand the Syrian rulers' decision to release U.S. pilot Goodman as part of the aforementioned Syrian course. The decision to release the pilot is in harmony with the official and real Syrian stand on dealing with the Americans. What draws the attention and what we want to say here today is that the Palestinian hypocrites in Syria have remained silent over the release of U.S. pilot Goodman. Meanwhile, we were surprised by a vicious campaign of lies against the Palestinian revolution and its symbol Brother Abu 'Ammar when the PLO released the Zionist POW's in return for the release of thousands of Palestinian POW's and detainees from the Zionist enemy prisons. Moreover, do the Palestinian naive tools in Damascus really believe that the release of the U.S. pilot was due to humanitarian reasons, as the Damascus media claimed? The Syrian regime is the last to talk about humanitarianism. Did this regime commit its crimes and massacres in Hamah, Al-Yarmuk, Nahr al-Barid, Al-Baddawi, and Tripoli in the name of humanity?

The Syrian regime's release of the U.S. pilot is a part of the U.S. deal reached with the Damascus regime, which has enabled the Americans and Zionists in Lebanon to remove the Palestinian revolution from Lebanese territory and from the contact lines in Al-Biqa'.

The Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said 2 days ago that the Syrian-U.S. contacts are continuing and that there are natural relations between Washington and Damascus. The question now remains: In light of Khaddam's statement, what will happen on the ground whether in Lebanon or in Syria? Information received from Lebanon and Washington indicates that the Syrian regime is now trying to mobilize its tools in the Palestinian arena in order to concentrate them on the borders with Jordan in order to fabricate problems, clashes, and fighting with Jordan. The Syrian regime is trying to convince the United States that it is the primary and basic force in the region and that any solution must pass through Damascus. The traitor agents, the tools of the Syrian regime among the dissidents, As-Sa'iqah, and the Jibril clique, will claim that they are fighting Jordan to prevent any dialogue between Jordan and the PLO. Meanwhile, they remain silent over the Damascus regime's treason, its crystal clear agentry for the United States, and its continued contacts and agreements with Washington. The side that pays a heavy price for all this is the Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian people, and the entire Arab nation.

PFLP Official Comments on Israeli Air Raid

JN041808 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Recorded dispatch by Louis Faris, Radio Monte Carlo's correspondent in Damascus]

[Excerpt] Following this morning's Israeli air raid on Ba'labakk, Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the PFLP Political Bureau, said that Israel has committed a new massacre against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. He said that the raid resulted in the killing or wounding of more than 160 Lebanese and Palestinian civilians, and added: What took place will only make us more determined to continue the armed struggle, through the alliance and coordination with the Lebanese nationalist forces, in order to strike at the Israeli occupation forces wherever they may be, whether in the occupied Palestinian territory or southern Lebanon.

Baghdad PLO Radio Reports West Bank Attack

JN041815 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The operations of our revolutionaries inside the occupied homeland are escalating. The revolutionaries are dealing one blow after another to the enemy's illusions, sick fantasies, and empty claims about its military strikes and about the blows of the dissidents and traitors, which have all weakened the PLO.

Following their recent operations in Nabulus, Balatah, and Jabalyah, our valiant revolutionaries carried out a daring new operation against the enemy's forces in Qabatiyah, in the Janin district. Our revolutionaries attacked a Zionist military patrol, using molotov cocktails, and killed or wounded several Zionist soldiers. Admitting the operation, a Zionist military spokesman refrained from disclosing the number of losses among his forces. He added that the occupation forces cordoned off the operation theater and searched for the perpetrators, who managed to withdraw safely to base. The occupation forces then launched an arbitrary arrest campaign among the Palestinian citizens.

Soviet Magazine Interviews PLO Envoy Ash-Sha'ir

For the text of an interview with Rami ash-Sha'ir, the PLO representativein the Soviet Union, published in *SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA* on 31 December, see the Middle East and North Africa section of the 5 January Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT*.

Saudi Arabia's Yamani on Nigeria's OPEC Role
AB051102 Lagos NAN in English 1050 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 5 (OPECNA/NAN) — Shaykh Ahmad Yamani, Saudi Arabia's minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has welcomed the declaration by the new administration in Nigeria that the country will maintain its ties with OPEC.

"I was extremely pleased with the statement," said Shaykh Yamani, adding that he knew Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari who was in charge of the country's petroleum affairs between 1976 and 1979. "We remained in contact and I know to what extent he is really aware of the significance of OPEC to Nigeria as well as to the whole world," he said.

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Returns From European Visit

GF042022 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Manama, 4 Jan (WAKH) — Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah returned to Manama today after a private visit to Europe.

Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah led those who welcomed the Bahraini prime minister upon his arrival.

He was also welcomed by Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force.

KUWAIT

National Assembly Speaker Greets PRC Visitors

LD042146 Kuwait KUNA in English 1600 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 4 (KUNA) — National Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-Adsani met here Wednesday with the delegation of the Chinese People's Congress led by Wang Renzhong that is currently on a visit to Kuwait at the invitation of the National Assembly.

Al-Adsani told KUNA that discussion at the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Arab area, particularly the Palestinian cause and the Iraq-Iran war.

The Kuwaiti side briefed the Chinese visitors on the democratic life and experience in Kuwait, in addition to discussing bilateral relations.

Al-Adsani said the Chinese delegation had affirmed China's stand and sympathy with the Arab peoples and their decisive causes, and their country's support for efforts being exerted toward putting an end to the escalating tension in the region through resorting to dialogue for a peaceful settlement of problems in the region.

Al-Adsani added the Chinese delegation expressed admiration for Kuwait's internal and foreign policies.

The Chinese delegation extended an invitation to Al-Adsani to visit China.

The meeting was attended by the head of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee Jasim al-Saqr, the head of the legislative and legal affairs committee and head of the mission accompanying the delegation Salih al-Fadalah, and assembly members Falah al-Hajraf and Mutlaq al-Masud.

The Chinese delegation visited before noon Wednesday the headquarters of the National Assembly and toured its facilities.

Later on, the Chinese delegation was given a lunch banquet by Al-Adsani attended by National Assembly caucus members and heads of committee and rapporteurs, as well as the Chinese charge d'affaires at the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait.

OMAN

Sultan Qabus Receives Saudi Message

GF042030 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1805 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Muscat, 4 Jan (WAKH) — Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman has received a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, the contents of which were not revealed.

The message was delivered by Saudi Education Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir during his meeting with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id here today.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives 5 Jan

GF050804 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Sudanese Foreign Affairs Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak and his accompanying delegation arrived in the country today on a visit to the Sultanate.

Upon his arrival, he made a statement to a radio correspondent indicating that he will deliver an oral message from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. He added that during the visit he will hold talks with his excellency the minister of state for foreign affairs in order to exchange views on all the current Arab and international issues.

He went on to say that the views of the Sultanate of Oman and Sudan are identical with regard to foreign policy and indicated that firm relations link the two countries.

QATAR

Papers Laud Syrian Release of U.S. Pilot

GF040940 Doha QNA in Arabic 0825 GMT 4 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Doha, 4 Jan (QNA) — Two Qatari newspapers have welcomed the Syrian decision to free the captured U.S. pilot and regard this step as an attempt by Syria to endthe misunderstanding that has harmed US.-Syrian relations for a long time.

Commenting editorially, the newspaper *AL-'ARAB* said that the Syrian position, which stems from a powerful basis, isregarded as a painful blow to the unsuccessful policy of President Reagan, which is based on the flexing of muscle. The paper also noted the statements made by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in which he called on Washington to realize that guns are not a suitable method for dialogue with the Syrians.

The English-language newspaper *GULF TIMES* expressed the belief that through this wise move the Syrians want to convey a

message to all concerned sides that Syria was never keen to have armed confrontation with the United States — contrary to what is being disseminated by the Reagan administration for internal considerations.

The paper warned the United States against misconstruing the Syrian step. The paper stressed that at the time Syria released the pilot, it was keen to emphasize that it will continue to ably defend itself if the United States continues its aggression.

SAUDI ARABIA

YAR Foreign Minister Leaves Riyadh for Home

LD041429 Riyadh SPA in English 1240 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] San'a' Jan 4, (SPA) — Foreign Minister Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi returned home today from Riyadh after a short visit to the Kingdom during which he conveyed a message to his Majesty King Fahd from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

On his arrival, Al-Asbahi said he was carrying a written message from King Fahd to President Salih.

Burundi Foreign Minister Nzeyimana Visits

LD040444 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0942 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Jidda, 3 Jan SPA — Burundi Foreign Minister Nzeyimana this morning arrived in Jidda for a visit to the kingdom which will last several days.

On his arrival, he was met by Deputy Chief of Protocol of the Foreign Ministry Hasan Marzuq and Burundi's ambassador to the Kingdom.

Papers Comment on U.S. Pilot's Release

LD041337 Riyadh SPA in English 1224 GMT 4 Jan 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 4 (SPA) — Commenting on the release of downed navy pilot Robert Goodman, the Jidda-based *ARAB NEWS* said any small step or gesture toward peace or reconciliation is to "be warmly welcomed in a region rattling with gunfire and full of tension and bloodshed.

"And what Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has done is no small thing. In a gesture that will be described as magnificient even by his detractors, the Syrian leader has freed U.S. airman Goodman, shot down while on a bombing raid over Syrian positions in Lebanon in the first week of last month," it added.

The paper said the Syrian action was as much a tribute to Hafiz al-Asad's statemanship as it is to U.S. presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson's persuasive skill and diplomatic finesse.

Now that both President al-Asad and Jackson have confounded their detractors in the U.S., the paper said the outside world expects some signs of flexibility on the part of the Reagan administration in its handling of the Middle East question, especially the Syrian part of it.

Commenting on the same subject, the Jidda-based *SAUDI GAZETTE* said the release of the captured U.S. navy pilot Goodman was as much a triumph of personal diplomacy by Jackson as a gesture of goodwill by Syrian authorites. The paper quoted a statement made by Jackson in which he welcomed the release as a giant step towards peace, and hoped that the U.S. Government would make a reciprocal action.

"Whether the U.S. Administration does it or not will be known soon, but Syria has shown that the Arabs are responsive to friendship and goodwill, not to blackmail and threats," the paper said.

Syrian-U.S. Relations Seen As Improving

LD041329 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jan 83

[From "Analyses" feature by (Abdallah Sulayman al-Khurayyif)]

[Excerpts] It appears that Syrian-U.S. relations are drawing closer to relaxation and more openness, through which the two countries can resolve their differences in Lebanon in a manner serving Lebanon itself.

Observers point out that the latest testimony to this fact is Syria's release of the U.S. flier captured by Syrian forces when his aircraft was shot down over Syrian positions in Al-Biqa' in Lebanon on 4 December 1983. It was step in which Syria responded to a humane appeal made by U.S. presidential candidate Jesse Jackson to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

UAE

Paper on Syria's Release of U.S. Prisoner

GF041153 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 4 Jan 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Syria's Gesture"]

[Text] Syria yesterday released American airman Robert Goodman in response to a "moral appeal" by Rev. Jesse Jackson, the U.S. Democratic presidential hopeful. While the black civil rights leader probably had strong domestic political compulsions also in undertaking his trip to Damascus, this should not overshadow the significance of the result it has achieved.

Rev. Jackson himself has hailed Lt Goodman's release as a "giant step towards peace" taken by President Hafiz al-Asad whom he met on Monday, and it proves the point that more can be achieved through conciliatory gestures than air raids and threats such as those directed by the Reagan administration. And the Syrian Government has said in a statement that the action should be seen as its contribution to "creating circumstances that would facilitate the withdrawal of American troops from Lebanon. The

Syrian Government has hoped that the U.S. will now take measures to end its military involvement in Lebanon.

The message contained in the Syrian statement and the release of Lt Goodman should not be lost on the U.S., particularly when pressure is already increasing on President Reagan to pull American troops out of Beirut.

The Italian and French Governments, whose soldiers are also part of the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut, are already seriously reviewing the presence of their troops, and the Italian president, Mr Sandro Pertini, recently stated that the Americans were in Lebanon "in defence of Israel and not (in defence of) peace, and they bombard Lebanon with tons of bombs..." The Italian Government, obviously in keeping with popular sentiment, now intends to slash its force by half of the original commitment of 1,100 men. Similarly, France has announced that it will withdraw a quarter of its approximately 2,000 men in Beirut.

Within the U.S., three former directors of the CIA have joined the withdrawal campaign, dubbing the use of Marines in Beirut "inappropriate." One of them, James Schlesinger, who also served as defence secretary under Mr Nixon and Mr Ford, has said that "the worst of all policies is to hang in there (Beirut)."

The opposition to Mr Reagan's stance in maintaining as aggressive military presence in Lebanon is rapidly mounting, and it should be hoped that Lt Goodman's release will help persuade the U.S. to call its Marines home and review its entire policy towards Lebanon, based as it is on protecting Zionist interests, and indeed towards the Middle East as a whole.

AL-'ALAM Interviews Mubarak on Policy

NC041846 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Rabat, 4 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has affirmed that Egypt has adopted the course of peace for solving the Mideast question after having tried the course of war. He said no war has ever settled a question, as every one inevitably leads to the negotiating table.

This came in an interview President Mubarak granted to Muhammad al-'Arabi as-Sari, managing director of the Moroccan newpspaer *AL-'ALAM* — Istiqlal Party organ — and member of the party's Executive Committee. The interview will be published tomorrow, Thursday.

President Mubarak gave an example in this respect, referring to the Vietnam war, which lasted many years, and which came to an end through negotiations.

President Mubarak warned that the occupation of Lebanon, the nonwithdrawals, the inter-Palestinian fighting, and the U.S. elections are all factors providing Israel the opportunity to continue building settlements. President Mubarak also warned that Israel will have completed them by the end of the year and that theywill cover the West Bank and Gaza, thus presenting a fait accompli.

President Mubarak described Egyptian-Moroccan relations as good and said sincere and strong relations link him with King Hassan II of Morocco. He added: We and Morocco have never exchanged slanders or abuses. President Mubarak called for constructive and logical criticism among the Arabs, not abuses and insults, and said all Arabs embrace Islam which, like all other religions, does not allow this.

President Mubarak dealt with the current peace initiatives and described the Fes initiative as excellent. However, he said that the Arabs disagreed after Fes and started attacking one another. President Mubarak expressed sadness over the Arab situation and noted that the outbiddings do not advance or delay the situation.He said the Arabs must be realistic and logical with themselves if they are to seek their interests. President Husni Mubarak emphasized that no initiative will have results if the Arabs are not in agreement.

The president called on the Arabs to reach a speedy agreement, because time is passing and particularly because Israel's interest is to make this year — an election year — pass.

President Mubarak demanded that the new element represented by Jordan and the Palestinians be included so that negotiations can begin on a new basis.

Concluding his interview President Mubarak dealt with the situation in the Arab Maghreb and expressed the wish that the Moroccan-Algerian conflict find a solution. He said: I have great confidence in His Majesty King Hassan and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. Both are rational and balanced men.

Following is the text of the interview:

Question: Was the meeting with 'Arafat an Egyptian-Palestinian or an Egyptian-Arab event, and was your meeting with Abu 'Ammar or Yasir 'Arafat?

President Mubarak: I view this in 'Arafat's capacity as a moderate Palestinian leader known throughout the world. In spite of what happened in the past, I consider my meeting with him natural for one reason, namely, that Egypt has dealt with the Palestine question since its inception. Egypt was the first to make sacrifices for Palestine. It continues to make such sacrifices, and it will not change its plan. It has transformed the question from a question of refugees, in Resolution 242, to a question of people and a state after the October War. Egypt was engaged in several wars because of Palestine. It sustained heavy expenditures and lost many lives. It has not given up the question to this moment in spite of what has been and is being said. Since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, our position has been clear and not changed. Our stance was clear during the massacre and during the inter-Palestinian fighting in Tripoli. We have supported the Palestine question. We are aware of the real position of the dissidents. I will not talk at length on the dissidents, but I say it is a regrettable and disgraceful matter that Palestinians destroy each other. [passage indistinct]

Question: What is your appraisal of the Israeli reaction to this event?

President Mubarak: They object to everything in Israel. They said the meeting violates Camp David. What does the meeting have to do with Camp David? Before that, when we recalled our ambassador, they said that violated Camp David. They consider many things a violation of Camp David. Let them say whatever they like. They say there is a breach of Camp David; we say there is no breach.

Some say the meeting violates the Baghdad resolutions. We must learn that political differences are one thing and antagonism quite another. It was also said this is wrong and that 'Arafat must bear responsibility. Has he committed a crime?

The Arab world is aware of the critical circumstances which it is passing through, particularly in 1984. We have drawn attention to this in many interviews and from several platforms, but no one listens. We ask God to guide us all along the correct path in the interests of the Arab nation.

Question: What restrictions does Camp David present with respect to the Egyptian move toward the Palestine question?

President Mubarak: Which restrictions? This subject has been greatly exaggerated. The fact is that Camp David represents two documents: One concerns Egypt and Israel. We arrived at a treaty under which we took over our land without restrictions. Ambassadors have been exchanged. This is a normal situation as our ambassadors are present in all international forums and throughout the world. The Israeli ambassador is present. What is wrong with that? Is he going to harm us? The other document deals with the solution of all aspects of the Palestine question. In this respect, if we live long we will regret our neglect of this sole commitment by Israel and the United States toward the Palestine question. By nature we strongly reject things without giving them

due consideration, and then regret it later. We recall that before Camp David there was a meeting in the MENA House Overoi Hotel. Then it was possible that the battle between us and Israel would be over the Palestinian delegation's attendance at the meetings in the presence of the Palestinian flag. This is how the battle would have taken place at that time. If that had happened we would have finished a long time ago and the Palestinian flag would now be flying alongside the Israeli flag. But as Arabs we refused, and voices shouted "no." If that had happened the battle would have been settled, and we would have been in a better position.

When Egypt suggested that we begin with Gaza as a token gesture so that our Palestinian brothers could set foot on a piece of land and have their own administration, everybody was against it. Israel, which would have agreed, said they refused to consider both Gaza and the West Bank and subsequently rejected the proposal. This proposal was communicated to Begin in Al-'Arish. He promised to consider it. At the time it was said the proposal would divide the question and that it relinquished the West Bank. Our view then was that the two would be lost together and that it would be sound to obtain one and then claim the other.

Some say, let us start with Gaza. The fact is Israel will approve neither this nor that. This is our nature. We reject something at first and then go back to what we rejected. This has been the case with Resolution 242. There was a stronger draft resolution which was entirely rejected. Then there was discussion of another formula. Resolution 242 was brought up, and they discovered that the old formula was stronger. The old formula provided for the withdrawal from all the territories. When they asked to go back to the old formula, they were told it was too late and that Resolution 242 had been accepted despite its flaws.

We Arabs are emotional. If we had resorted to reason when tackling our issues and in our actions, we would have been in a better position.

There is the Camp David accord. Where is the restriction binding us? We chose the path of peace after trying the path of war. We chose the path of peace to settle the question. War has never resolved any issue in the world. It is inevitable to sit at the negotiating table after a war. The examples are many. The Vietnamese-U.S. war lasted several years, but it was necessary to hold a meeting in Paris to find a solution.

All problems must end by a peaceful solution and sitting around the negotiating table. It is enough to say that we will destroy Israel. This talk was repeated before. The two superpowers guarantee the existence of Israel. The State of Israel is an established fact, and nothing can be done about that. These were past methods, and they were of no consequence. This was talk for local consumption. If we become realistic and logical, and if we resort to sound thinking to resolve the issue before it is too late and before thinking becomes useless, then we might achieve something.

Moreover, what is the situation today? Israel is enjoying the best conditions. Israelis occupy a section of Lebanon. There is an Arab state in Lebanon. Israel said: I will withdraw after the others withdraw. An argument ensued: Will Syria withdraw or will Israel withdraw first? A problem emerged. In the meantime, the Palestinian split occurred, and the Arab and entire world became occupied with the fighting between the Palestinian dissidents and the Palestinians loyal to Yasir 'Arafat. Furthermore, this is an election year in the United States.

All these circumstaces — Lebanon's occupation, the nonwithdrawal, and the U.S. elections — provide Israel with the opportunity to proceed with the building of settlements. The settlements will cover the West Bank and Gaza Sector by the end of the year, and a new fait accompli will be established. Jews will be brought from abroad to live in the West Bank and Gaza Sector settlements. Who will destroy these settlements, and what would the world's stance be on the elimination of this fait accompli?We would be the losers, and would continue to slander each other, something we do successfully. We will curse right and left. We have become experts in cursing. Will the cursing bring us something? It creates hatred in the hearts and deepens the roots of rancor among us.

We must act like the civilized world. The United States, Britain, France, Japan, Germany, and Italy have their differences. Do they tackle their affairs through curses as we do? They differ among themselves and level political criticism at one another. Will they come to what we see happening in the Arab arena? Never. The criticism will remain objective and logical, and it will be answered. We do not follow such a course. Rather, we exchange curses and resort to defamation despite the fact that we all believe in Islam, and our religion and all religions absolutely do not permit this.

Question: Egyptian diplomacy has dealt with the Fes plan as being a good deed and with the Reagan plan as being more acceptable. How do you now diagnose the situation? Do you think it possible to create a link between the Reagan and Fes plans? Do you believe the outcome would be a new plan embodying the common denominators? What is Egypt's role in this?

President Mubarak: I will be frank with you. The Fes initiative is excellent, but who can implement it? The Arabs were divided after the Fes initiative, and some began to attack one another. You can see how sad the Arab situation is. One insults the other and supports this against the other. In light of these differences, do you think that someone can give momentum to the Fes initiative? Immediately after the Fes initiative, which calls for a peaceful solution, statements were made 2 days later claiming that what was taken by force can only be regained by force. For how long will such statements continue? The outbiddings will make no progress nor cause any delays. We must be realistic and logical with ourselves if we are seeking our interests. If there is someone who can apply the Fes initiative, every Arab would urge him to do so. As for the Reagan initiative, the U.S. view is that it is ready to sponsor it. We have reservations and do not approve of the initiative in its entirety. However, Reagan says he is prepared to back it. The Egyptian-French initiative is regarded as a moral one, as there is no one capable of implementing it.

We have the two initiatives before us. Israel rejects both of them. We must determine which of the two initiatives can be implemented. During the implementation, we will be able to see what can develop because only a short time remains ahead of us. We

only have 1 year after which the question will be almost impossible, and we will lose the land and everything. What is important is to determine which of the initiatives can be utilized and yield results. Is it the Fes or Reagan initiative? Which of these is backed by a power capable of pushing it? Both initiatives need a power to move them along with the Arab power. The Arabs' power rests in their agreement. No initiative will have any result unless the Arabs are united. The Reagan initiative is on stage; if it can be provided with a push from both sides, and if we can agree on moving and developing it in the interest of the Palestine question, then let us begin immediately and speedily, otherwise we will lose everything. It is in Israel's interest that this year — the year of elections — passes after which neither the Reagan nor Fes initiatives will be useful. The Arabs should quickly come to an agreement. I see time being lost and that 1984 will be like past years. That is the problem.

Question: Egypt is concentrating on the Palestinians in Palestine. What is the position of this option in Camp David, particularly now that the autonomy negotiations have failed?

President Mubarak: The autonomy talks were suspended in October 1981, because Israel said they should be held in Jerusalem and Cairo. This is contrary to what was agreed on during the era of the late President Anwar as-Sadat. They insisted on Jerusalem. We refused and said there is a dispute between us over the question of Jerusalem. You have declared it Israel's capital, while we do not recognize that. Messages were exchanged between the late President Anwar as-Sadat and former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin regarding Jerusalem in August 1980. Since then no meeting has been held in Jerusalem, and the talks have been frozen.

A new situation has now appeared on the stage, which is the Reagan initiative, which calls for the establishment of Palestinian-Jordanian relations so that the negotiations can begin. A new element has been added.

The autonomy talks reached a semi-deadlock, because the Israelis' interpretation of Camp David is inconsistent with the spirit in which it was drawn up. They want to apply autonomy to the people, not the land. We rejected this. There is a large gap between our interpretation and theirs. Former President Jimmy Carter even told them when he was in Israel that they have departed from Camp David because the Camp David autonomy concept differs from theirs.

I would like to tell you that Israel unwillingly came to Camp David, and despite what they reiterate about it, they hope Camp David falls so that they could get rid of it, because it represents the sole commitment Israel has made since the beginning of the question in 1948. Yes, it is the only commitment, because Israel had no prior ones.

It is now necessary to include a new element represented by Jordan and the Palestinians so that the negotiations can begin on a new basis.

Question: Some in the Arab world call for Egypt's return to the Arab League only as a leader of resistance to Israel. What is your view?

President Mubarak: What is meant by resisting Israel? Is it the elimination of Israel? We want to know the meaning of resisting Israel and what we must do. Israel's existence is guaranteed by the great powers and is backed by a superpower. We have been saying we will throw Israel into the sea for 30 years. Well, our division constitutes a barrier against obtaining our rights. What does the resistance mean? Do the Arabs have any strategy? Let them first agree on one. Let the Arabs draw up a strategy, and let them think logically. The say the resistance has been going on since 1948. What have we done? We are losing more and more, are being split more and more, and the disease is increasingly eating away at us. We will collapse if this situation continues.

Question: In view of the current tension with Israel, what is your assessment of relations with Tel Aviv?

President Mubarak: I can say we have dealings with Israel like those with any other state; I have said this several times. We do not have any special relations with it. If it errs we reply; and if it takes any measure toward Egypt that contravenes norms and traditions, we take a measure toward it as we would with any state. I repeat: It is not a state that gets priority treatment. We told them that we will return our ambassador when they withdraw from Lebanon and take action on the Palestinian issue and the 25 April agreement pertaining to Tabah; we will have no objection if movement begins in these respects. No one should imagine that pressure can be exerted on us concerning those matters, because we are the masters of our will and decision-making.

Question: In Rabat Shultz denied that a strategic agreement between the United States and Israel was signed during Shamir's visit [to the United States]. What were the interpretations Kamal Hasan 'Ali brought back on Shamir's visit to Washington?

President Mubarak: There has been strategic cooperation between them for some time. It is nothing new. The problem is that in a U.S. election year they escalate many matters, and because of this we caution the Arabs to be wary. Our criticism on this subject is based on the following: We told them that if the subject were not new, then what did the announcement of it at this time mean, and why the clamor: Is there anything new in the situation? I have said it would be a catastrophe if there were anything new. They told us that nothing new was signed and that it was an old situation between them and Israel. We know that there has been cooperation between them for a long time, be it overt or covert; but the details are not known, and their committees are constantly meeting. The Americans said this cooperation is not directed against the Arabs, and up to now we have believed them and are following the subject.

Question: Some imagine that Egypt's return to the Arabs can pass by way of the Islamic Conference. How do you assess what happened in Dhaka? What was Egypt's position at the Islamic Conference? Did Egypt's difficulties at the Islamic Conference primarily originate from Arab sides?

President Mubarak: Egypt's position at the Islamic Conference was not announced, and Egypt was not invited. As to Egypt's role at the Islamic Conference, it is the same as its known

role in all international forums toward the Arabs and remaining Islamic states. It is one of support for Islamic and Arab rights despite differences. On the question of Afghanistan and the Palestinian issue, and in all the forums, Egypt's role has been very clear. We say this without modesty or flattery to anyone. Our line is clear and frank; I do not want to say any more than this about the Islamic Conference.

Question: What is your opinion on the deterioration of conditions in the Arab Maghreb due to the continued tension between Morocco and Algeria, despite the Nairobi formula, which was confirmed in Addis Ababa?

President Mubarak: I have been acquainted with the Moroccan-Algerian problem since it began. I have been in both Morocco and Algeria. Both are our friends. I hope a solution will be found to their disagreement. I have great confidence in his majesty the king. He is a wise and sober man, and he carefully weighs matters. I do not know President Bendjedid, and have not met him, but judging by his clear policy and actions, which we follow, we think he is a quiet and balanced man who relies on reason and logic. I hope both sides will reach a solution to the problem instead of escalating the situation and unjustifiably draining the resources of two fraternal Arab and Islamic states. I hope this disagreement will end. We have had enough fragmentation in the Arab world.

Question: The consultations between Morocco and Egypt on the African level have not ceased. What is your assessment of Moroccan-Egyptian relations on the African, Arab, and Islamic levels?

President Mubarak: The fact is that I have a special relationship with His Majesty King Hassan as a friend. Whenever I have visited Morocco, I truly felt he was a brother and friend.We have often sat together. I am tied to him by sincere and strong bonds. Our contacts never cease, not even during times of crisis. I want to declare that despite eminent political differences in the past, our relations never and will never cease, because there is a strong bond between the peoples which we cannot sever. A misunderstanding on some issues must not reflect on the relations among the peoples, because such a misunderstanding disappears with the disappearance of leaders. We and Morocco have never exchanged improper words or pursued barbarian methods. We maintain normal relations with the Moroccan people and his majesty the king. It is our destiny that we should both meet. I contact his majesty and he has contacts me. We have continuous telephone contacts.

Mubarak Receives Al-Baz on His Return From Iraq

NC041426 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this afternoon received Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and Presidential Office director for political affairs. Dr al-Baz returned to Cairo this morning from Baghdad following a visit to Iraq during which he handed a message from President Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The visit was preceded by a similar one to Jordan.

Al-Baz on Visits, Policy

NC041744 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and Presidential Office director for political affairs, has said that he brought two messages for President Husni Mubarak from King Husayn of Jordan and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn responding to the two messages his excellency had sent them.

In a statement to newsmen following his meeting today with the president, Dr al-Baz said the two messages dealt with the same topics raised by the president — the situation in the area and the need for a related and coordinated Arab stand that enjoys international support but emanates from an Arab base. Replying to a question on repeated reports of an Egyptian peace plan for the current situation that Egypt will advance, he said: We will not submit a peace plan separately, but will contact the Arab brothers. The coming phase will aim at concentrating on a comprehensive solution which must focus on the Palestinian issue — a solution in which the Syrian dimension will not be disregarded, because the Syrian side must always be taken into consideration and any peace plan must be drawn up on a collective level.

Dr Usamah al-Baz added: We have a number of ideas which we have been presenting for a long time; but there is no peace project or integrated plan for the achievement of a comprehensive peace.

On what the concept of the Arab move means, Al-Baz said: We are waiting for the Palestinians to put their internal situation in order. Following that, there will be steps for consultation and coordination in which the PLO will participate with Jordan and in which Egypt will also participate. At a certain phase Syria must also participate in a discussion of the Lebanese situation because there is a real danger of a partitioning of Lebanon and an entrenchment of fighting, clashes, and foreign occupation. We are watching all of this carefully and are contacting the various sides to exchange views on them.

On whether there was anything new in Syria's stand regarding its participation at the present time, Al-Baz said: There is nothing new in this regard, but a comprehensive solution must include all of the sides to the question which is still pending: There is a Palestinian dimension, a Syrian dimension, and a Lebanese dimension; and there is a specific reality, namely, the occupation of Lebanon, the inability of the legitimate government to exercise its powers, the possibility of a return to civil war, and the continuation of the vicious circle of violence. We are working to avoid all of this.

On the possibilities of halting the Iraqi-Iranian war, Dr al-Baz said: We hope that the Government of Iran will realize the futility of a continuation of the war and that the interests of all sides, including the Iranian people, would be better served if the war did not continue, because it serves no legitimate objective of either side. He said he has found the Iraqi front solid and that Iraq is interested in ending the war and reaching a negotiated settlement of all outstanding questions between the two countries.He added: We call on Iran to respond to the Iraqi spirit,

and we will do all we can to achieve that result. The continuation of the war is not only detrimental to the interests of the two countries but will also lead to increasing tension in the Gulf area and will endanger the Arab nation's strategic security in the long run.

On the participation of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, and the need for them to take a joint step to push the peace process, Dr al-Baz said: This is a matter for the two sides. We cannot say a step or steps have crystallized. Current matters still require the resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, because there are many pending matters, not only the question of peace. There is also the relationship between Palestine and Jordan, the consideration of numerous questions and how to reinforce steadfastness in the occupied territories, and a number of questions which must be tackled by dialogue between the two sides so that each side can reach its own specific visualization.

Dr al-Baz said: However, we can say that Egypt is utilizing all means to encourage this dialogue, and it is also ready to be a side to it if that would help the sides resume the dialogue.

Mubarak Cables Numayri on Independence Day

NC311512 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1217 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent a congratulatory cable to Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri on the occasion of Independence Day. The cable reads as follows:

I am delighted to send my best heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency and to our brothers in the South of the [Nile] valley on the anniversary of the independence of brotherly Sudan. This independence ushered in a new and glorious start for economic and political progress as well as freedom for the Sudanese people.

The historical relations and bonds of brotherhood and friendship between our peoples will always remain a bulwark which safeguards our national soil and will enhance the course of integration between our brotherly peoples to the benefit of both, and will also bring a better future for the peoples of our nation and our great African Continent. It is a good omen that your Independence Day coincides with the inauguration of the Nile Valley Radio; which fairly symbolizes the aspirations of the Nile valley nation for a free and dignified life.

I wish Your Excellency the best of health and happiness and your brotherly nation continued development and advancement under your wise and dedicated leadership. My best regards and respect.

Mubarak also sent a congratulatory cable to Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier on the occasion of Haiti's National Day.

Muhyi ad-Din on Current Issues With Israel

NC041503 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Commenting on the government statement at the People's Assembly, Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din emphasized today that Tabah is Egyptian territory, will remain Egyptian, and that Egypt is continuing to solve this problem through arbitration.

The prime minister said the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel depends on Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, a solution of the Tabah problem, and the start of meetings pertaining to discussions on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din added that the peace treaty with Israel will not restrict Egypt's steps for establishing peace. He added that Egypt welcomes the restoration of relations with any Arab state.

Makes Statement to Assembly

NC041658 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] In his statement to the People's Assembly on the Assembly's deliberations of the government statement, Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said the peace treaty with Israel does not restrict the steps that Egypt can take in the interest of peace. He said it is impossible to pressure Egypt. Dr Muhyi ad-Din explained that Egypt has done all it can to bridge the gap among the Arab states. He said Egypt welcomes any Arab state that restores its official relations with Egypt. He said there is a continuous dialogue between Egypt and many Arab states.

On relations with the Soviet Union, the prime minister said the setting of the date for the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Moscow is a matter left for Egypt to decide. In his comment, the prime minister emphasized that Egypt presently enjoys an atmosphere of freedom which it did not enjoy before. He said the opposition meets anywhere and moves in complete freedom and with security. He said opposition newspapers are published regularly without any censorship and that the right of assembly and expression is legitimate and guaranteed to everyone.

Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din also dealt with economic questions. He affirmed that there has been successes in the currency and insurance policies — a matter which has helped to reduce the rate of inflation.

He pointed out that there has been a reduction in imports which reached 143 million pounds — a matter which reduced the trade deficit by 105 million pounds. He said the deficit in the current fiscal budget has also dropped to 1.3 billion pounds after having been 1.5 billion pounds in last year's budget.

After the majority of members approved the government statement, the People's Assembly emphasized its confidence in the government under Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din. The Assembly explained that the government statement represents a sound and correct visualization in the domain of internal and external national action and reflects the hopes and ambitions of the masses.

Representatives of the opposition and liberal parties abstained from approving the government statement.

The session was adjourned and the Assembly will reassemble 14 January.

Butrus Ghali Interviewed on Palestinian Issue

GF050934 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Jan (WAKH) — Egyptian Minister of state for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has asserted that the position of Egypt can be represented in its support for 'Arafat's legitimacy as representative of the Palestinian people,and that 'Arafat will soon make a correct decision because he is the person who is most aware of what needs to be done for the PLO. In an exclusive statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA'*, Dr Ghali said: Undoubtedly there is criticism of the Syrian position, but we do not intend to unleash this because we call for a reconciliation between Yasir 'Arafat and all the Arab sides, foremost of which is Syria. He added: We must not exaggerate the importance of the strategic agreement between the United States and Israel. What is important is to be able to move the Palestinian issue diplomatically.

The Egyptian minister emphasized that there will be no genuine move for the Palestinian issue "but through the United States, which has the power to effectively pressure Israel. We, as Arabs, must in the first place unify our ranks." He went on to say:-

There are two views with regard to the Palestinian people. The first view envisages the need to achieve reconciliation, otherwise the PLO will be partitioned into various currents and, consequently, the loyalty of the Arab countries to them will be in accordance with these currents. Furthermore, the countries of the international community will be divided into various groups. Therefore, this matter is very dangerous to the future of the Palestinian people and to the future of the Palestinian issue. The second view envisages that 'Arafat must definitely make a move, even if this is at the expense of the PLO — and I mean by this move a new cooperation between Jordan and 'Arafat.

On Egyptian-Israeli relations, Dr Ghali said: Egypt adheres to peace and to the peace agreement, believing that through peace we can attain what we want with regard to acomprehensive settlement in the region.

Presidential Decree on New Suez Canal Director

NC311652 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued a presidential decree appointing engineer Muhammad 'Izzat 'Adil director and commissioned member of the board of directors of the Suez Canal Authority with the rank of minister.

The decree states that this should not violate the membership provisions of the board of directors of the Suez Canal Authority or the unified code for the authority's personnel. The decree will be published tomorrow in the *OFFICIAL GAZETTE* and will go in effect as of tomorrow, 1 January 1984.

Reportage on Parties' Election Participation

Wafd Party To Participate

NC032111 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA) — During a meeting today under Dr Wahid Ra'fat, deputy leader of the New Wafd Party, the Higher PartyBody decided to participate in the next People's Assembly elections, scheduled for May.

This was stated by Dr Nu'man Jum'ah, assistant secretary general of the New Wafd Party, who added: The party weekly will be issued in the middle of March and will be named *AL-MASRI AL-JADID [THE NEW EGYPTIAN]*.

He said the body has accepted a fresh number of personalities as members of the Wafd Party.

Socialist Party To Enter

NC041822 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1743 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA) — At its meeting today under the chairmanship of Mustafa Kamil Murad, the Permanent Council of the Socialist Liberal Party agreed that the party should participate in the People's Assembly elections scheduled for the last week of May in all governorates. Murad said his party will coordinate with the opposition parties and those political currents not yet able to form their own parties. He added that attempts at coordination among the opposition parties to enter the elections with a unified list are continuing.

Socialist Labor Party Congress Resolutions

PM031304 Cairo ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Dec 83 pp 4,5,6,7,21

["Text" of resolutions adopted by Second Socialist Labor Party Congress held in Cairo "last week"]

[Excerpt] The Second Socialist Labor Party Congress has issued the following recommendations and resolutions:

In the Field of Foreign Policy

1. The congress calls for balanced relations with East and West, the restoration of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, and the need to adhere to the policy of nonalignment with regard to establishing balanced relations between East and West, including the restoration of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. It also calls for an end to aggression against Afghanistan.

2. The need to review our special relationship with the United States in light of its strategic agreement with Israel:

The U.S. attitude, based on a total bias in favor of Israel and support for it with all resources while disregarding the Arab countries' interests and rights, as was clearly evident in the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel, makes it necessary for Egypt to review its special relationship with the United States so that it will not harm its national security. This should be done by refraining from giving the U.S.

forces any facilities or military bases, allowing them to carry out joint maneuvers on our territory, or enabling them to obtain information or data on the pretext of scientific research or any other reason.

3. The need for the withdrawal of the United States from the multinational forces in Sinai and Lebanon:

The U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance calls for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from the multinational forces stationed in Sinai and Lebanon for peace-keeping purposes in view of the fact that these forces have lost their impartiality and are totally biased in favor of Israel. These forces should be replaced by UN forces whose formation should be agreed upon with the Soviet Union after resuming diplomatic relations with it. This is so particularly in view of the U.S. attack on Syrian and Druze positions in Lebanon and their becoming a party to the current fighting.

4. The need to pursue a policy reflecting the policies of the nonaligned and Third World countries in the Security Council:

Becoming a Security Council member makes it incumbent upon Egypt as an nonaligned Arab state belonging to the Third World to pursue, in exercising this membership, a policy reflecting these ties, to give support to liberation movements and the peoples' rights to self-determination, and also to condemn foreign invasion of any country.

5. The need not to accept conditional foreign aid and to first give preference to self-reliance and second to aid from Arab and Islamic sources in view of the effect that conditional foreign aid has on our will in decisionmaking.

Three factors are required for this:

A. Avoiding to expand those projects that are not urgent or important if they require foreign financing so that we will not be compelled to ask for loans and aid to finance them.

B. Laying down strict rules so as to avoid squandering public expenditures and to rationalize it in a serious and studied manner with a view to providing the country with resources to spend on its needs and avoid resorting to foreign aid.

C. Obtaining loans or investments from Arab sources such as development funds and Arab and Islamic banks to replace those obtained from resources controlled by countries that impose conditions, especially in view of the fact that Arab oil money is being invested in American banks and that it is the Arab oil governments that provide capital to international financial organizations, such as the IMF and World Bank, which give aid to countries.

Second: In the field of Arab issues:

6. The need to restore the unity of the Arab ranks and pave the way for this through popular meetings:

The dangers to which the Arab area is exposed, which could lead to a confrontation between the two superpowers and to the Arab territories becoming the scene of a nuclear war, necessitates the restoration of Arab unity. This calls for the popular nationalist forces to cooperate with all the honest forces in the Arab world to ensure that Egypt occupies its rightful place in the Arab ranks so that with its resources, capabilities, and influence it will once again be able to pilot the Arab ship in the present turbulent sea. Those forces should call for a pan-Arab conference to include all of the Arab forces in order to discuss the present situation and recommend a remedy with all sincerity, freedom, and loyalty.

7. Praising the reception of struggler Yasir 'Arafat:

The Congress praises President Husni Mubarak's meeting with Palestinian resistance leader Yasir 'Arafat when he passed through Egyptian territory after his departure from Tripoli, Lebanon. It considers this meeting an enhancement of the efforts being exerted to restore the Palestinian people's rights, and a culmination of the Socialist Labor Party's efforts and unstinting support for the Palestinian strugglers under the PLO's leadership.

8. Severance of diplomatic relations with Israel if it does not immediately withdraw from Lebanon:

Israel's continued occupation of portions of Lebanese territory, its insistence on continuing to build settlements in occupied Palestinian territory op the West Bank and Gaza, and its obstruction of Egypt's recovery of Tabah on the Sinai Peninsula, warrant more than merely recalling the Egyptian ambassador from Israel. Rather, they necessitate a total break of diplomatic relations, particularly since Egyptian Embassy staff in Israel are under constant threat.

9. Freezing the Camp David agreements in view of Israel's repeated violation of its provisions:

Israel's frequent violations of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty began with the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the annexation of the Golan Heights, the proclamation of Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel, and the current deadlock in the autonomy talks. It continued with the invasion of Lebanon, the Sabra and Shatila massacres, the continued building of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, and the threat to the departure of Yasir 'Arafat and his comrades by sea from Tripoli under the UN flag. All this calls for a freezing of the treaty as the commitments by both sides are mutual.

NPUG Calls for Stand Against U.S.-Israeli Pact

PM041220 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 28 Dec 83 p 6

[Statement issued by the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party: "NPUG Calls for Joint Arab Defense Council Meeting With Egypt Attending To Discuss Confronting U.S.-backed Israeli Expansion" — date not given]

[Excerpts] Events are daily proving the aggressive character of U.S. policy toward the Arab nation and further revealing that it has shifted to a new phse in its hostility, that of using brute military force in order to subjugate the area and impose U.S. domination and hegemony on it.

President Reagan's administration, which represents the most hostile quarters in the United States, is also applying the same aggressive policies in our region that it is pursuing worldwide. The U.S. military presence in the area has increased from 700 soldiers in the Multinational Force in the Sinai and 1,400 soldiers in the Multinational Force in Lebanon, to more than 20,000 soldiers off the Lebanese and Syrian coasts. This represents the biggest military concentration the area has ever known; it includes three of the largest aircraft carriers and a large number of battleships and other naval units. They are all committing actual and constant aggression against the peoples of Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine through air raids, naval bombardments and blockades, and joint air raids with Israel, which places its fighting expertise in the area at the United States' disposal.

The U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement has served to escalate the U.S. aggression as part of U.S. global strategy, which since the beginning of Reagan's administration has rejected easing world tension and imposed an all-out worldwide confrontation against the Soviet Union. The seriousness of the agreement is evident from the fact that it includes the Middle East region as a base for confrontation with the Soviet Union and employs it in the service of U.S. strategy to complete the chain of confrontation against the USSR and balance some of the weak points in the imperialist confrontation front, particularly in Western Europe and NATO alliance. Thus the agreement exposes the area's peoples to the danger of nuclear war since it paves the way for the deployment of Pershing missiles in Israel with the aim of threatening Soviet territories. Israel thereby becomes a U.S. military base on whose territory U.S. missiles are deployed therefore inviting the danger of nuclear retaliation covering the entire area.

In view of the dangerous situation resulting from this agreement and its long-term effects on the future of the Arab national liberation movement, and the very Arab existence, the NPUG secretary general made a statement on 5 December strongly denouncing U.S. policy, which has shown its ugliest face under the Reagan administration. The strategic cooperation agreement shows that the Arabs are no longer facing two parties but one single party — the United States and Israel.

In view of the seriousness of the situation resulting from the agreement and its long-term effect on Arab existence, the NPUG Secretariat General believes that the principal efforts of our party and all nationalist forces in Egypt should be devoted to explaining these facts to the Egyptian masses and mobilizing them with the aim of demanding a unified and specific Egyptian national policy to counter this negative regional development. Our party believes that the masses are the principal power without whose conviction and sacrifice no nationalist movement or confrontation of an external enemy can succeed. This makes it incumbent upon us to attach particular importance to establishing a sound democracy, unrestricted party politics, and free and honest elections in the country.

What are official Egypt's responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Egyptian nationalist movement, the Arab national liberation forces, and the ruling Arab regimes?

First: Camp David and the disruption of the strategic balance in favor of Israel:

The roots of the present situation go back to the signing of the Camp David agreements in 1978, which removed Egypt's demographic, economic, military, and Arab and international weight from the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict, thus enabling Israel to dominate the area thanks to U.S. political, economic, and military backing. As a result, Israel continued to pursue the expansionist policy of building settlements in the West Bank and Gaza preparatory to annexing them. It proclaimed the application of Israeli law in the Golan, annexed Arab Jerusalem to Israel, and destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor in an air raid, after which it announced that its airspace extends from Pakistan in the east to the Atlantic in the west. It invaded Lebanon in June 1982 and besieged its capital, Beirut, and also participated in the massacres of Sabra and Shatila and the massacre of thousands of Palestinian civilians. The Israeli invasion forces are still in Lebanon.

In addition to this, Israel continues to refuse to return the Tabaharea in the Sinai Peninsula to the Egyptian Government. At a time when Israel's armaments are developing in both quality and quantity and its military strength is growing, Egypt is shouldering the heavy expenditure burden of arming the Egyptian Army. This restricts its ability to keep up with the development in Israel's military capability, as a result of which the balance of power in the area will further tip in Israel's favor.. The Camp David agreements have brought Egypt neither peace nor prosperity but have plunged the area in a series of wars and conflicts whose principal fields are Lebanon and Syria and whose dangers are not distant from Egypt.

The Camp David agreements have uncovered the basic weaknesses in the Arab national liberation movement, particularly since it has been deprived of Egypt's leading role. The Arab situation has deteriorated and shown a tendency to give secondary conflicts between its parties priority over the basic conflict with U.S. imperialism and Zionism. As a result, tremendous Arab strength has been spent in side conflicts and all the parties have become exhausted.

Despite this negative situation, the U.S.-Israeli plan to dominate the area came up against the Palestinian revolution's brave resistance under the PLO leadership and Syria's refusal to submit to this plan. This has thwarted the U.S. effort to impose a settlement in the area in accordance with its terms and interests. The United States has also failed thus far to bring the Lebanese-Israeli agreement into effect. And despite its naval and air power off the Lebanese coast, which it actually used to intimidate the Lebanese nationalist movement, the Palestinian revolution, and Syria, the United States has also failed to implement its plan to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and Lebanese resistance. Moreover, following the change in the situation after As-Sadat's departure, the United States is no longer finding a full response from President Husni Mubarak.

In light of these developments, the mounting aggressive spirit of U.S. policy, and the emergence of the idea of a strategic consensus against the Soviet Union in the Middle East as part of U.S. strategy to escalate confrontation with the Soviet Union

throughout the world (Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East), the idea of the U.S.-Israeli alliance developed as an expression of the United States' total reliance on Israel as a tool to achieve its strategic objective in the Middle East. The U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding was signed in 1979 under cover of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and then met with some nominal objection from the Egyptian prime minister. This, together with the state of division and deterioration in the Arab homeland, encouraged the United States after Reagan took office to sign a written agreement in November 1981 stating the context of the U.S.-Israeli agreement, as well as its objectives and means. The agreement was behind Israel's invasion of Lebanon in June 1982. The United States was forced to freeze the agreement in an attempt to absolve itself internationally of this dirty war. But the aggressive nature of U.S. policy soon prompted it to revive the strategic agreement in November 1983, thereby confirming U.S. disregard for the Arab regimes loyal to it and proving that it does not accept any rejection of Israel from them, even if it is only nominal.

Second: The revival of the strategic agreement is a threat to Egyptian and Arab national security:

The U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement, according to U.S. and Israeli officials' statements and to Western sources, envisages turning U.S. military aid to Israel into an outright grant, giving Israel aid to develop the sophisticated Lavi aircraft, the purchasing by the U.S. Army of Israeli equipment, and allowing the marketing of arms manufactured with U.S. know-how in other countries. It also provides for joint air and naval exercises and maneuvers and the establishment in Israel of arms depots for the use by U.S. forces in the event of a crisis in the area while allowing Israel, if it is confronted with a danger requiring an immediate response, to use these sophisticated arms without the need to wait for supplies from abroad.

Clearly, this agreement with those provisions gives Israel a tremendous amount of additional military strength principally based on the U.S. arsenal of highly sophisticated weapons; provides it with additional sources of armament; spares its deteriorating economy the expenses of developing its Armed Forces; gives the Israeli economy an additional boost through arms sales and the income from maintenance expenses [of U.S. weapons stored in Israel]and provides Israel with the best U.S. expertise in both the air and at sea. This comes at a time when neither Egypt nor any Arab country is able to match this development in Israel's military strength, which is being provided by the United States.

Egyptian national security is in immediate and urgent danger as a result of the implementation of the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement, particularly since there are many indications that Israeli officials are not satisfied with certain stands adopted by President Husni Mubarak, especially with regard to the withdrawal of the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv, the halting of the autonomy talks, the curtailment of normalization, and renewed recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

What exacerbates the danger of the Israeli threat to Egyptian national security is that those who opposed the Camp David agreement and Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai are now the rulers of Israel — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and Israeli Cabinet member Ariel Sharon. Recently there have been more and more statements by the Israelis on the need to reoccupy the Sinai.

The Israeli threat to Egyptian national security also extends to the entire Arab homeland; it threatens the national security of every Arab country, and no Arab state is exempt from submitting to the U.S.-Israeli hegemony and accepting the role of an underling and a tool in the implementation of the new strategy which the U.S.-Israeli alliance is applying.

How can this danger be confronted?

What exactly is our duty in combating it?

What is the responsibility of Egyptian and Arab nationalist forces?

What is the responsibility of the Arab countries in general and Egypt in particular?

Third: Reactions are not enough; there is no alternative to a strong nationalist stand:

The NPUG has noted with great appreciation President Husni Mubarak's attitude expressed in his statement that the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement is a disaster, his insistence on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, his support for the Palestinian people's right to independent decisionmaking, his assertion more than once that the expulsion of the Palestinians from Lebanon is wrong and will have adverse results, and his affirmation that the Palestine problem is the crux of the Middle East problem and must be solved if peace and stability are to be established in the area.

The party believes that such attitudes call for actions to turn them into reality and for a strong and a firm stand in the face of Reagan's increasing hostility and Israel's immediate threats to Egyptian national security. Particularly in view of the fact that we note a contradictory attitude evident in the statements of some officials, foremost among whom is NDP chairman for Foreign Affairs Dr Mustafa Khalil. These statements insist on pursuing As-Sadat's Camp David policy, that is, agreeing to work within the context of the U.S. strategy, belittling the consequences of the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement, blaming the Arabs for the U.S. bias in favor of Israel, and giving the excuse of a lack of a unified Arab stand for Egypt's failure to shoulder its responsibility in confronting this immediate danger to Egypt and the Arab nation.

What is an even greater cause for anxiety is the trend clearly evident in the government press and media and in ruling party circles and which is being adopted by officials in positions of high responsibility. Since the matter concerns Egyptian national security and the future of the country, reactions are not enough to confront this serious development in the U.S.-Israeli alliance relationship. The continuation of this contradictory attitude at the top of the government machinery must end in favor of a new

national stand based on a clear perception of the dangers posed to our independence and practical measures to confront them.

Fourth: Toward a new nationalist line and a responsible Arab stand:

The NPUG Secretariat General, out of its appreciation of the serious dangers threatening the country, appeals to all Egyptian nationalist parties and forces to unify their nationalist stand through a coordinated movement aimed at enhancing the Egyptian masses' awareness of these dangers and defining the basic tasks that must be carried out to protect our national independence and repel these dangers.

In this regard we call for the following:

1. Appreciation of President Husni Mubarak's statements against the strategic agreement along with the demand that these statements be translated into practical measures, that efforts be exerted to check the present deterioration in Egyptian politics, and that a unified stand be adopted by the Egyptian Government with a view to rejecting this agreement and its results.

2. A demand that the Egyptian Government review Egypt's foreign relations in order to return to the policy of nonalignment so as to enable Egypt to diversify its external economic relations throughout the world and to widen the circle of its political activity to include the Third World and socialist countries as well as the industrial capitalist countries, so that it can end its policy of economic tutelage to the United States and break the monopoly of its arms sales to Egypt. Talk of the new danger is of no avail unless U.S control of the Egyptian economy and its monopoly on arms sales are broken.

3. A refusal to participate in any role involved in the strategic consensus theory, sparing Egypt the danger of international polarization consequent upon defending U.S. interests, an end to the policy of joint training with the United States or its allies and of giving facilities to the U.S. forces, and a refusal to establish foreign military bases on Egyptian territory or storing U.S. arms in Egypt.

4. The need for Egypt to play a positive role in restoring a unified Arab stand that would ensure the defense of common Arab interests, to consider every possibility that might contribute to the achievements of that goal, and to work to prevent the Middle East region from being used as a U.S. imperialist base for its nuclear confrontation with the Soviet Union.

5. A summons to the nationalist parties and forces and the popular Arab organizations to comprehend the dimensions of U.S. aggression and to step up their mass struggle to coordinate popular Arab confrontation to this danger. In this regard, we once again call for an urgent conference of all nationalist parties and forces and popular organizations to be held in Cairo to confront the new U.S.-Israeli scheme. We also urge all Arab nationalist forces to halt blood-letting among them and unite within the framework of an Arab nationalist front to resist the U.S.-Israeli onslaught, condemn the aggression to which the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian peoples are being subjected, and give them every aid possible.

6. A summons to Arab governments to shoulder their responsibilities at this stage, overcoming fear, hesitancy, and division, and to seek a unified Arab stand that translates statements into practical actions, foremost among to refrain from any form of military cooperation with the United States and giving itany military facilities. They are also called upon to convene a meeting of the Joint Arab Defense Council to study a practical plan to confront the U.S.-backed expansionist Israeli policy an to invite the Egyptian Government to participate in this meeting and to implement the council's resolutions.

7. A summons to all Arab governments and the Egyptian Government to realize the importance of giving freedom to the masses so they can be democratically mobilized in the confrontation of external aggression. Establishing democracy and enabling the masses to express themselves will enable them to willingly accept all the sacrifices necessary for the confrontation.

8. The NPUG Secretariat General affirms that we will join hands with all Egyptians participating in confronting this danger and in formulating this new nationalist line. We give our support to every effort to this end.

The homeland is in danger, so let us join efforts to rescue it.

MAY Criticizes U.S. Withdrawal From UNESCO

PM041424 Cairo MAY in Arabic 2 Jan 84 p 2

[Salamah Ahmad Salamah article: "The United States and UNESCO"]

[Excerpts] Since last year ended with some serious and bloody events, why shouldn't the new year also begin with a ridiculous event? Well, perhaps that event was not completely ridiculous, but it did confirm that the superpowers sometimes behave like children, their nervousness defying all logic and maturity when they fail to achieve their objectives.

The U.S. Government has regrettably decided to withdraw from UNESCO by 1985. It announced that it will not rejoin that organization unless it changes its policies, which the U.S. Government considers hostile to it and contrary to the main tasks stipulated in the UN Charter.

The United States used the same method once before when it withdrew from the ILO, only to rejoin it after a short period.

A heated debate has been in progress within UNESCO for years over the call for a new international information and media system that would check the influence of Western media and news agencies which control and monopolize the world's information scene. That call has infuriated the United States and other Western states which consider every attempt to end this information monopoly, which above all serves the aims and methods of Western policies, a blow to free world philosophy, institutions, and values.

U.S. displeasure with these trends may have been intensified by UNESCO resolutions against Israel and its abominable practices against the Arab cultural heritage in the occupied territories —

practices which must surely be condemned by every fair advocate of the people's right to preserve their cultural character.

The same argument used by the United States in its criticism of UNESCO for allowing ideological and political issues to affect its activities may well be used against the United States itself. Furthermore, the U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO because a majority of that organization opposes U.S. and Western policies is a blow to the principle of democracy which the United States upholds. The fact that the United States contributes 25 percent of the UNESCO budget is not sufficient justification for that withdrawal. It is the U.S. cultural, educational, and scientific contribution which should tip the balance. The U.S. withdrawal will only help to ultimately push the organization to unbalanced trends.

AL-AKHBAR Wants U.S. To Check Israel Aggression

NC050918 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 5 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the title: "Enough of This Israeli Din," the newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* says: Whenever a sign looms on the horizon that the efforts for a peaceful settlement are making headway, Israel surprises the world with a new, serious escalation in the Middle East area. Israel does this out of its deliberate desire to see that steps taken toward a peaceful settlement fumble. Despite all that has happened, Israel wants to tell everybody that it is not deterred, and that it will not be deterred.

AL-AKHBAR adds: Some 64 Israeli aircraft yesterday attacked Palestinian and Lebanese positions within the territory under Syrian control in Lebanon. Meanwhile, the Lebanese Government was preparing to implement a new security plan to stop the bloodletting in Lebanon, and open the way for a peaceful solution that might ultimately lead to the restoration of stability in Lebanon. At the same time, the Palestinian leaders in Tunis — under PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, are discussing steps toward peace — steps that Egypt backs and supports. Thus, Israel once again shows its true colors, donning the garment of a state that wants nothing other than seeing pain, suffering, bloodshed, and confusion continue in the area. Concluding its article, *AL-AKHBAR requests the United States to reproach Israel in* such a way as to deter the oppressors from perpetrating oppression, check the tyranny of the tyrants, open the way for a just and lasting peace, and encourage the parties concerned to work for peace with good intentions.

New Oilfield Enhances Western Desert Reserves

NC020934 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The Western Desert, 2 Jan (MENA) — Initial estimates indicate that oil and gas reserves in the new field discovered in the western desert is estimated at 50 million barrels. This field will add 25 percent to the confirmed gross reserves of the western desert oilfields. The new oil discovery is undergoing tests to determine its economic potential in preparation for announcing the details.

The new discovery is located in the Badr ad-Din area in the northern part of the Qattara depression, 10 km north of the Abu al-Gharadiq oilfield, 100 km southwest of the Al-'Alamayn oilfield, and 12 km southwest of the Al-Hamra' oil port on the Mediterranean.

U.S. Congressional Delegation Departs Cairo

NC041454 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA) — A U.S. Congressional delegation headed by John Tower, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, left Cairo this afternoon for Tel Aviv following a 1-day visit to Egypt. The delegation met President Husni Mubarak during the visit.

Oman's Az-Zawawi in Cairo on 1-Day Visit

NC050725 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0656 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA) — Dr 'Umar az-Zawawi, adviser to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman, arrived early today in Cairo for a 1-day visit. During this visit, Dr az-Zawawi will meet with a number of officials within the framework of consultation and coordination between the two countries, and within [efforts for] the confrontation of events in the area.

Departs After Talks

NC051230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1218 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA) — Dr 'Umar az-Zawawi, adviser to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman, left Cairo at noon today following a 12-hour visit to Cairo.

Reportage on Inauguration of Nile Valley Radio

Sudanese Information Minister Arrives

NC301635 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA) — Muhammad Khujali Salihin, Sudanese minister of national guidance and information, arrived here today on a several-day visit to Egypt, during which he will take part in the inauguration of the Nile Valley Radio station. The Sudanese minister was received at Cairo Airport by Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state for information, and Husayn 'Anan, chairman of the board of trustees of the Radio and Television Union.

Meets Ash-Sharif

NC301940 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Muhammad Khujali Salihin, Sudanese minister of national guidance and information, arrived in Cairo today heading a Sudanese information delegation to attend the inauguration of the Nile Valley Radio. The Sudanese minister was met by Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state for information. The two ministers will inaugurate the Nile Valley Radio tomorrow pre-

paratory to beginning its broadcasts on Sunday.

The Sudanese minister said the opening of the Nile Valley Radio is in accordance with the decision of the Higher Council for Integration chaired by Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Ja'far Numayri to express the integration's objectives and aspirations of the Egyptian and Sudanese citizens. He added that the Nile Valley Radio is a unique initiative in Arab and African societies.

Safwat ash-Sharif said the Radio and Television Union has concluded the studies relating to the establishment of an ultrapowerful radio station in south Egypt which will be allocated for the Nile Valley Radio and cover the borders of Egypt and Sudan, as well as all parts of the Arab world. He said he would discuss these findings with the Sudanese minister. Ash-Sharif said the construction of this new radio station will take 3 years to complete. He noted that the utilization of the Arab satellite by the end of 1984 will have a primary role in serving radio and television transmissions.

Meets Mubarak

NC311358 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] President Mubarak received Sudanese Information Minister Khujali Salihin. The meeting comes on the occasion of the inauguration of the Nile Valley Radio and was attended by State Minister for Information Safwat ash-Sharif.

Before noon today, Ash-Sharif and Salihin inaugurated the Nile Valley Radio at the Radio and Television building in Cairo. The Nile Valley Radio will start broadcasting tomorrow at 0700 with speeches by Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Ja'far Numayri. The Egyptian and Sudanese information ministers will also make speeches on that occasion.

Departs 2 Jan

NC022257 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA) — Sudanese Information Minister Muhammad Khujali Salihin left Cairo tonight for home following a 4-day visit to Egypt during which he took part in the inauguration of the Nile Valley Radio. Salihin was seen off at the airport by Safwat ash-Sharif, minister of state for information, and Husayn 'Uthman, head of the Secretaries Council of the Radio and Television Association.

Before leaving, the Sudanese minister said the inauguaration of the Nile Valley Radio at the beginning of the new year was the most important information achievement ever accomplished between Egypt and Sudan.

He added that some integration-related studies had been discussed. Salihin also noted that a Sudanese-Egyptian exhibition on civilization in the two countries will start touring all Sudanese regions and Egyptian governorates as of next February.

Mubarak Welcomes Radio Opening

NC010756 Cairo Nile Valley Radio in Arabic 0509 GMT 1 Jan 83

[Message by President Husni Mubarak addressed to the people of the Nile valley on the occasion of the inauguration of the Nile valley radio; date not given — recorded]

[Text] In the name of the merciful and compassionate God. Brothersand sisters of the Nile valley:

The integration today between the twin peoples in the north and south takes another blessed step with the inauguration of the Nile Valley Radio. This radio constitutes a new voice that expresses the ambitions, hopes, and wishes of our great masses, and reflects their determination to build a new society possessing the elements of material and spiritual strength, and combining the nobility of the past and modernism, and reconciling the interests of the individual and the interests of the group within a framework of genuine democracy and popular participation and on the basis of placing the supreme national interest above all other considerations. This is because individuals are mortal and the interests [as heard] are changeable and diverse. This is also because our ultimate loyalty must be to our immortal homeland, our good land, and sublime principles.

We have a great mission to pursue in the coming years. It is to complete the unity structure, achieve further integration and cohesion among the masses, and emphasize their causes and problems. We cannot fulfill this mission except with more serious work, a sincere approach, adherence to the correct priorities, a sincerity with one's self and others, and faith in the ability of the people to carry out the struggle.

Our people have become familiar with their course and realized the nature of the challenges facing them. They have absorbed the lessons of the past. They have gone ahead in making peace and progress, spreading stability and security, and making their good land a bastion for security and reassurance for all the fraternal Arab and African peoples who share our interests and fate and who with usconfront the same challenges and obstacles. There is no doubt that the information media shoulder a large part of the responsibility in this great work and play an indispensable role in serving the aims of development; in contributing to achieving realistic concepts for solving the urgent problems of the masses; in raising the standard of public education and awareness; and in guiding the activities of the youths and increasing their attachment to their homeland and confidence in their future.

Therefore, the inauguration of the Nile Valley Radio is considered a successful move on the path of integration and unity and opens new horizons for national and pan-Arab action. Let us continue on our way, and may God grant us success and guide our work and our march.

I take this opportunity to extend to the beloved Sudanese people and Brother President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri sincerest congratulations and best wishes for happiness and success. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,331

JN041733 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Military communique No 1,331 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 4 January 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Today, the aggressive war which was launched by the rancorous Khomeyniite regime on our beloved Iraq and glorious Arab nation, entered its 41st month. However, the brave sons of our Armed Forces are more powerful and determined to frighten the covetous aggressors and to inflict the heaviest losses on their forces. The results for yesterday evening and this morning are as follows:

1. Our frontline units, using all types of weapons, shelled enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our positions east of Basra, killing 11 of the enemy, wounding several others, and destroying 1 tank, 2 guns, and 1 ammunition dump.

2. One vehicle and two personnel positions were destroyed in the central operational sector.

3. Two personnel positions were destroyed and all their occupants were killed in the northern operational sector.

4. The mean Khomeyniite clique today shelled Mandali and its suburbs with artillery. The shelling damaged several civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 January, 1984

ATH-THAWRAH Claims Nation Has 'New' Weapons

JN041630 Baghdad INA in English 1420 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 4, INA — Iraqi daily *ATH-THAWRAH* said that Iraq possesses new weapons and potentials which it had not used yet, but definitely it would use them as long as the Iranian regime kept sticking to war.

In an editorial here today, the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party organ said that the powerful Iraq would continue striking the expansionist Iranian enemy in land, air, and sea until it would force them to give up their expansionist schemes and come to their senses. It is quite obvious that the defeated rulers of Iran who face deterioration and consequent defeats have become incapable to terrorize and blackmail the Arab Gulf countries or to influence their national options and pan-Arab stands, it added.

Peoples could not be defeated by means of exploding bombs and that the pan-Arab identity could not be changed or influenced by attempts of sabotage and terrorism, it pointed out.

Iran's rulers have achieved nothing out of their condemned crime perpetrated in Kuwait, but more scandals which unmasked their evil nature and their covetous expansionist designs not only against Iraq but also against the Arab Gulf region as a whole, it concluded.

Army 'Capable' of Defending 'Any' Arab Country

JN040855 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0802 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA) — The commander of the I Army Corps has asserted that the Iraqi Army is capable of defending its homeland and confronting any offensive against any Arab country. In a statement published today in the magazine *ALIF BA'*, the commander said that the Iraqi Army possessed effective weapons before the conflict which have enabled it to wage a prolonged war in defense of not only Iraq, but of any other Arab country which might also be attacked.

The commander praised the Iraqi Army's development in terms of armaments, training, and its great combat experience. After more than 3 years of fighting, the commander added, the Iraqi Army has refuted claims that Arab armies cannot tolerate prolonged war.

Air Force Commander on Iranian, Civilian Targets

JN041103 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0812 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA) — According to the commander of the Air Force, Iraq is keeping an eye on the prohibited area in the Arab Gulf.

In a exclusive statement published today by the magazine *ALIF BA'*, he added that the Iraqi Air Force will strike whenever the enemy moves, as this is a legitimate Iraqi right so long as the country is at war with Iran.

The commander of the Iraqi Air Force denied that his units select civilian targets inside Iran. He said: We have never targeted civilian areas. Our only targets are the enemy forces and his means of continuing the campaign of aggression against Iraq. The targets we select and bomb are economic and military targets completely unrelated to civilian objectives.

He pointed out that if the Iranian regime possessed the capability to strike at any target in Iraq, it would have done so without hesitation. However, the enemy has lost a great many of his fighter planes and has had to keep the remaining planes for local defense purposes, and not for the defense of his military units at the front.

Naval Commander on Capabilities, Iranian Losses

JN041720 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1604 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Basra, 4 Jan (INA) — The commander of the Iraqi Navy and coastal defense forces has declared that the Iraqi navy is both prepared and able to destroy all ships which enter Bandar-e Khomeyni harbor.

In a statement to INA today, the commander noted that the Iranian regime failed last Monday to bring a convoy of ships into Bandar-e Khomeyni harbor despite heavy air cover and the two warships it provided as an escort for that convoy.

The commander said that the men of the Iraqi Navy and Air Force turned their angry fire to scorch those adventurers who did

not heed the warnings of powerful Iraq. That operation, he pointed out, led to the destruction of five major Iranian naval targets and the downing of a Chinook helicopter.

The commander of the Navy and coastal defense forces stated that since the beginning of the war on 4 September 1980, the Navy has succeeded in destroying 130 vital Iranian naval targets. He warned that Iraq will double the Iranian regime's losses until final victory is achieved.

The commander described the war which has been imposed upon us by the Iranian regime as a great school for military science and the effective use of our best weapons. All this, he said, has led to splendid results on the naval battlefield.

Moreover, he added, the war has improved the capabilities of our fighters and enriched their experience so that they are now comparable to the best fighters in the navies of the world's advanced countries.

The commander praised the splendid cooperation and coordination between the Navy and the Air Force. This, he said, has led to epic battles which have stunned the Iranian regime.

These great events have inscribed the heroism of the Iraqi fighter in modern Arab history. They have also served to increase his determination to defend both his homeland and the Arab nation against all aggressors and to triumph.

Radio Reports Message Sent to Perez de Cuellar

JN050957 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] United Nations — Iraq has repeated its call for peace in the Arab Gulf on the basis of cordial relations and the abandoning of aggressive policies.

In a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations declared that Iraq supports mutual respect for territorial sovereignty and integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

He added that Iran's declared concern for the safety of the marine environment dictates that it must abide by its international pledges, peacefully cooperate with all countries in the region, and bring a halt to its launching of empty threats against these countries.

Newly Appointed Ministers Sworn In 4 January

JN041056 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA) — Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Khalil Shanshal, the newly appointed minister of state for military affairs, was sworn in here today in the presence of President Saddam Husayn. Two other newly appointed ministers were also sworn in. They are Minister of Local Government 'Adnan Dawud Salman and Minister of Youth Nuri Faysal Shahir.

Hamid 'Alwan Leaves for Indonesia, Malaysia

JN041112 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0818 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA) — Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Baghdad this morning on an official visit to Indonesia and Malaysia. The minister told INA that this visit is within the framework of bolstering the friendship and cooperation relations between Iraq and these two countries. He added that he will discuss with Indonesian and Malaysian officials the items on the agenda of the coming Islamic summit and the role of the ICO in settling the problems of the Islamic world, foremost being the Iraq-Iran war.

21 Syrian Officers Reportedly Killed in Accident

JN022014 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Twenty-one Syrian officers were killed in an accident, which remains shrouded in mystery, on the Qardahah road in Latakia Province at the end of last month.

According to today's edition of the Paris-based magazine *AT-TALI'AH AL-'ARABIYAH*, the Syrian authorities claimed that the accident was due to fate and divine decree, and that it was the result of a crash between a vehicle carrying these officers and a large truck. These same authorities announced that they could not arrest the driver of the truck, who fled following the accident. However, Syrian citizens were not convinced of the claims being made by the Syrian authorities, and they now assert that this operation was premeditated and is connected with the struggle for power in Damascus.

Correction to Communique No 1,329

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Communique No 1,329" published in the 3 January Middle East and Africa *DAILY REPORT*, page E 2, paragraph seven, line two:
...Mandali and the village of (Shahrbazar) and (Qazanqaya) and their environs...(correcting spellings of place names)

King Dissolves NCC, Recalls Parliamant
JN051234 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] A royal decree was issued today dissolving the National Consultative Council [NCC] as of the day after tomorrow, Saturday. The following is text of the royal decree:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Paragraph A of Article 5 of the NCC law, issue our decree as follows:

The NCC shall be dissolved as of Saturday, 7 January 1984.

Another royal decree was issued approving Cabinet decision No 7938 dated 4 January 1984 which invites the former House of Representatives to meet in an extraordinary session to consider the amendment of Article 73 of the Constitution. The following is the text of the Cabinet's decision:

In view of the current new circumstances and in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 5 of Article 73 of the Constitution, the Cabinet decides to invite the former House of Representatives to meet in an extraordinary session in order to consider the amendment of Article 73 of the Constitution.

Another royal decree was issued inviting the Parliament [majlis al-ummah] to meet in an extraordinary session as of Monday in order to consider the amendment of Article 73 of the Constitution. The following is the text of the royal decree:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with what was decided by the Cabinet in its decision No 7938 dated 4 January 1984 and our endorsement of this decision, and in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Article 82 of the Constitution and Paragraph 5 of Article 73 of the Constitution, decree as follows:

The Parliament shall be invited to meet in an extraordinary session as of Monday, 9 January 1984, in order to consider the amendment of Article 73 of the Constitution.

AL-QABAS Dispatch
GF051230 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 4 Jan 84 pp 1, 18

[By Abdallah al-'Utum, *AL-QABAS* correspondent in Amman]

[Text] A race with time has begun on the formation of a new cabinet for the next stage and the reconvening of the Jordanian House of Representatives, which was elected on 15 April 1967 in the two banks, in an emergency session in a few days in order to introduce constitutional and judicial amendments and thus prepare for the reactivation of parliamentary life.

Among the most significant of the expected amendments is the reformation of electoral districts so that the Jordanian state can be granted the authority to appoint the West Bank deputies and hold elections in the east bank, thus allowing all those who have Jordanian nationality and who live in Jordanian territory to exercise their right to vote, whether they be Jordanians or Palestinians.

This new Jordanian development, which deals with the parliamentary process, is compatible with Jordan's unionist views. Moreover, it destroys any interpretion that the Jordanian measure exceeds the Rabat resolutions issued in 1974.

Responsible sources on the Jordanian and Palestinian sides told *AL-QABAS* that this step had been taken in cooperation and coordination with the PLO. *Al-QABAS* also learned that the PLO will have a role in nominating the West Bank deputies who will be appointed. Moreover, King Husayn termed reactivation of parliamentary life in the Kingdom as puting the Jordanian house in order.

There has been extensive activity in the Jordanian capital during the past 48 hours during which the executive bodies in the NCC and the Senate have begun to prepare lists of members of the last House of Representatives. Invitations were also sent to ambassadors who were originally members of the house, such as Muhyi ad-Din al-Husayni, Jordan's ambassador to Morocco, and Tahir al-Masri, Jordan's ambassador in London. Invitations were also sent to deputies who reside in the West Bank. Some of them actually arrived in Jordan yesterday, including 'Abd al-Qadir as-Salih. Deputies who have passed away will be replaced.

Alluding to the latest meeting of the NCC, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said the council would not hold its normal meeting the following Monday. All evidence noted during the meeting confirmed that. Prime Minister Badran told the council: "We may not be able" to discuss the law dealing with the income tax in the next session. He insisted that this matter should be discussed at that very session.

NCC Speaker Sulayman 'Arar said at the end of the session: "We will inform you about the date of the next session," as he affirmed that the meeting will be held at 1030 every Monday.

AL-QABAS learned that yesterday the NCC prepared a list which included the number of meetings it held during its current session, the number of laws it approved and passed on to the committees, and the explanations it presented to the government. The general secretariat of the Senate was occupied yesterday with preparing lists of former members, the dates of their election, the number of electoral districts in the two banks, and the number of votes which the winning members received in the previous council.

The Jordanian measures have raised numerous questions as to which will come first: the formation of a new government or the convening of an extraordinary session of the House of Representatives. *AL-QABAS* can confirm that the formation of government will precede the call to convene the House of Representatives.

It is expected that the members of the House of Representatives will be increased from 60 to 75 in view of the imbalance in the democratic structure of the east bank as a result of the Zionist occupation of the West Bank. The House of Representatives is expected to amend the electoral law so that the number of representatives for the east bank will be more than half of the total number of representatives — which used to be the case in the past.

AL-QABAS has learned that the balance of representatives for the east bank and the West Bank will be based on the 1979 census. The majority of Jordan's population lives on the east bank. With the call for the House of Representatives to convene, the NCC will be dissolved.

The first Jordanian parliamentary elections were held in 1947 and the parliament lasted until the east bank and West Bank were united to form the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The last House of Representatives was elected on 15 April 1967, prior to the Zionist occupation of the West Bank. A new House of Representatives was due to be elected in 1971, but the house voted in 1972 to extend its term for another year, and in 1973 it voted again to extend its term for a further 2 years.

On 26 February 1974, the Arab summit conference in Rabat adopted a resolution recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Following the Rabat summit resolution, parliamentary life in Jordan was frozen. In its session on 10 November 1974, the House of Representatives amended the Jordanian Constitution and authorized the king to postpone general elections in extenuating circumstances.

In Febaruary 1976 the House of Representatives introduced another amendment to the Constitution, authorizing King Husayn to convene an extraordinary session of the House of Representatives to amend the Constitution. Parliamentary life remained frozen until April 1978 when King Husayn addressed a message to Mudar Badran inviting him to form the NCC to temporarily replace the House of Representatives.

The NCC is in its third term, which is due to end on 20 April 1984. Past speakers of the NCC were Ahmad al-Lawzi, Ahmad at-Tarawnah, and Sulayman 'Arrar, the current speaker. Kamil 'Urayqat was speaker of the House of Representatives.

acceptance and approval of the Soviet Union. Soldatov told the Lebanese foreign minister that the U.S. aim in the region is to placethe entire Arabian Gulf under the observation of the 6th Fleet, a policy the Soviet Union refuses to accept.

AS-SIYASAH obtained information that the Lebanese Government is making efforts at the highest levels to convince the United States to give the Soviet Union a role in a solution of the complicated Lebanese problem. An informative source said that Lebanon might reconsider its stances in light of what the Soviet ambassador said and that it will try to create new opportunities for negotiations with Moscow to urge the Soviets to make their political efforts which might contribute to the restoration of Lebanon's unity and independence.

Reportage on Preparation of Security Plan

Al-Jumayyil Briefs Cabinet

NC041423 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Report by Joe Sa'adah from the Presidential Palace — recorded]

[Excerpt] The Cabinet has held its first 1984 session under His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil, with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and ministers attending. At the end of the session, Cabinet Secretary General Mr Shafiq Munayminah made the following official statement:

At the outset of the session, His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil and His Excellency Prime Minister Mr Shafiq al-Wazzan briefed the Cabinet on the security plan. The plan was at the center of official attention after the final touches were put on the plan. His Excellency the prime minister gave a detailed explanation of the plan, now that the preparatory contacts have been completed. Implementation of the plan will commence immediately upon completion of those measures that must be given priority. At the request of His Excellency, the prime minister, the Ministerial Cabinet entrusted with studying the affairs of the [various] areas and the needs of their residents was placed on alert to respond to what occurs in this domain within the framework of the security plan and as a result of its implementation.

Qassis To Hold Damascus Talks

JN041323 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Telephone dispatch by Louis Faris, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent, in Damascus on 4 January — recorded]

[Excerpt] Colonel Simon Qassis, head of Lebanese Army Intelligence, is expected to hold talks during the next few hours with Syrian and Lebanese parties regarding the security plan for Beirut, its suburbs, and the mountain area. The security plan aims to permanently entrench security. It is not meant as a provisional truce liable to repeated violations. Walid Junblatt, who is expected to return to Damascus today, is currently studying the plan with his allies. Junblatt may meet with Col Qassis. Observers expect this plan, and the contacts held on it, to pave the way for a second meeting which will be held later this week in Riyadh among the Lebanese, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers.

Al-Hariri Arrives in Beirut

NC042229 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Efforts are being stepped up [words indistinct] and in different directions and at different levels to reach agreement on some of the points still to be settled before the security plan enters into effect. These moves are taking place in both the local and regional fields. Saudi envoy Rafi al-Hariri has arrived back in Beirut from Damascus with Syrian answers to some Lebanese queries. For his part, Colonel Simon Qassis is pursuing his contacts in Damascus with Syrian officers. Ambassador Johnnie 'Abduh is holding contacts with Lebanese opposition figures in.

Security sources expect the plan to come into effect next week.

The various moves are accompanied by the positive attitude taken by the Lebanese leadership, which has expressed readiness to help the redeployment of the Army and restoration of the state authority.

Salim Meets Al-Hariri

NC050846 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim met this morning in his office with Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri.

The Saudi ambassador in Beirut also attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Al-Hariri answered journalists' questions.

To a question as to how the talks have progressed, Al-Hariri said: Good, God willing.

Asked when the plan will be announced, he said: When it is completed.

To a question whether the plan will be announced in Beirut or in Riyadh, the Saudi mediator said: I cannot answer that question.

Phalangists 'Fully Approve' Plan

NC041624 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Excerpts] After chairing the meeting of the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau today, Pierre al-Jumayyil said the party is prepared, in understanding with the Lebanese forces, to do all it can to facilitate the imposition of the legitimate authority in Lebanon, and that it fully approves of the security plan and any other plan which would strengthen the position of the state and its institutions.

The Phalangist leader also said: In addition to our full agreement to hand over the positions of the Lebanese forces in Iqlim al-Kharrub and the southern coast [to the legitimate authority], we also propose to take other steps which would terminate the dispute in the mountain and the [southern] suburb and would, as a first step, impose the legitimate authority in all unoccupied areas from the Al-Awwali to the Al-Madfun Bridges.

Following a meeting of the Lebanese Front today, [former] President Camille Sham'un hoped that the implementation of the security plan will begin soon so as to enable the preparation of a comprehensive plan which would include all the Lebanese areas still outside the state's authority.

Foreign Ministers To Meet

JN051019 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Ahmad Al-Kuhaymi, Saudi ambassador to Lebanon, has affirmed that the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia will meet in Riyadh Sunday to discuss the question of achieving Lebanese national accord.

A security plan for Beirut and the mountain area is expected to be announced at the conclusion of contacts currently being held in Beirut by Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri.

Rumsfeld Arrives for Talks With Officials 4 Jan

NC042224 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld arrived tonight in Beirut. He is scheduled to meet with Lebanese officials tomorrow [words indistinct].

Salim Briefs Arab, UK Envoys on Lebanese Efforts

NC050854 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] At 0905 today, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim met with the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Tunisia, and with the head of the Egyptian Interests Section in Lebanon. The meeting concluded at 1000.

The Moroccan ambassador said after the meeting that Minister Salim briefed them on the consistent efforts being made by the Lebanese Government on the local, Arab, and international levels, and about the great hopes being pinned on those efforts to restore stability and peace, and fulfill the hope of total withdrawals from Lebanese territory.

Asked whether Minister Salim asked them to convey anything to their governments, he said: We shall undoubtedly convey all of the ideas raised in the meeting to our governments.

Minister Salim received the British ambassador at 1000.

Armed 'Communists' Prepare To Enter Tripoli

NC041616 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Caution continues to prevail in the areas in Tripoli which witnessed clashes today between members of the Islamic Unification Movement, the Red Knights, and the 'Alawites in Al-Qubbah and Al-Baqqar Square. The competition to acquire the weapons which 'Arafat's supporters left in the hands of the Unification Movement and the arms merchants is continuing.

It has been reported that approximately 400 communists stationed in the Dahr al-'Ayn area in Al-Kurah are preparing to forcibly enter Tripoli as they were forcibly expelled from it. They include Libyan, Sudanese, and Palestinian gunmen.

'Free Lebanon' Army Members Replace Israelis

NC041608 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] At 1530 this afternoon, the Israelis opened the crossing points on the Al-Awwali and Bisri Bridges in both directions. The Israeli army this afternoon vacated its positions in the Sidon Government House and Al-Miyah wa Miyah. Members of the army of free Lebanon replaced the Israeli forces, part of whom went toward the border and another toward Kafr Falus.

VOL: Syria Withdrawing Palestinian Brigades

NC050737 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Syrian General Command has given orders to the [Palestinian] Hittin and Al-Yarmuk brigades that their fighting men from all over the Mafr Milki in 'Akkar, and Al-Biqa' — assemble within 36 hours from yesterday evening in the Kafr Milki area in the 'Akkar District in preparation for their departure to Syria. As a matter of fact, the withdrawal in the direction of the Kafr Milki area began last night. Vehicles towing heavy 130-mm and 122-mm field artillery, T-34 and T-54 tanks, armored troop carriers, and various types and calibers of antiaircraft guns were seen.

The Voice of Lebanon correspondent says that these forces will arrive in Syria tomorrow and after their assembly at a certain point outside Damascus, will be redistributed to points to be determined later by the Syrian General Command.

The Voice of Lebanon correspondent explained that the Syrian Command has undertaken this step to bring all of the Palestinian fighters following the departure of 'Arafat under control,and to monitor any of their movements, reorganize them, and prevent any negative actions against Syrian forces which could hamper their military plans in Syria and Lebanon.

Our correspondent adds that the General Staff Command has learned from Syrian central intelligence that a considerable number of soldiers from the Hittin and Al-Yarmuk brigades have begun establishing secret cells loyal to Yasir 'Arafat, which are directly financed by the PLO through banks in Lebanon and Syria.

Kuwaiti Daily: Soviet Envoy Proposes USSR Role

GF041710 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 3 Jan 84 p 1

[Muhammad 'Inan dispatch from Beirut]

[Text] Well-informed sources told *AS-SIYASAH* that Soviet Ambassador in Beirut Alekandr Soldatov proposed to Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim during a recent meeting between them of the necessity of the Soviet Union's participation in a solution of the Lebanese crisis, particularly because the Soviets oppose a unilateral solution of the crisis by the United States. The sources said Soldatov told Salim that it is impossible to solve the Lebanese crisis and that of the Middle East without the

Al-Asad Receives Cable of Thanks From Reagan
JN050636 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable from U.S. President Ronald Reagan thanking him on behalf of the American people for the release of U.S. pilot Robert Goodman. President Reagan pointed out that this Syrian humanitarian gesture will have a beneficial effect on the atmosphere of U.S.-Syrian relations. The U.S. President expressed hope that the spirit of the Syrian initiative will spread to the continuous dialogue between the two sides. President al-Asad also received cables from U.S. citizens thanking him for his decision to release the U.S. pilot and praising the Syrian humanitarian initiative.

Press on U.S. Reaction to Release of Pilot
JN050754 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syrian Humanitarian Considerations Slap U.S. Arrogance," today's *AL-BA'TH* says: At a time when various world public circles have received the Syrian humanitarian initiative in releasing the U.S. pilot with praise and appreciation, and at a time when this special gesture has left the deepest impression among most official and public circles in the United States itself, at this very same time, the Reagan administration has dispatched its planes over the Syrian positions and prompted Israel to carry out a series of aggressive raids on the positions of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. It is obvious that while the world and the American people themselves have understood the Syrian initiative as a good humanitarian gesture which could create a better atmosphere for ending the U.S. military involvement, Reagan and his administration officials have received this gesture with foolish claims and provocative behavior, confirming the U.S. Administration's aggressive line and completely unmasking the peace-keeping mission which Washington is claiming for its forces in Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH continues: When it released the U.S. pilot and made this gesture to the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Syria did not expect any mentionable change in the Reagan administration's aggressive line. It is fully aware of the dimensions and evil objectives of this line in the Arab region, especially in the wake of the closer U.S.-Israeli collusion, which was crowned by the conclusion of the strategic alliance during Shamir's visit to Washington. But the Syrian gesture was motivated by the following considerations: First, Syria made its gesture for humanitarian reasons, and not for the sake of justice, thereby showing its real desire to achieve peace and save the region from the woes of military involvement. Had Syria adhered to the bases of justice and international norms, it would not have released the captured pilot and nobody would have blamed it for not doing so. The pilot had committed a crime to which he was driven by President Reagan. His capture was due to an undeclared war waged by Washington against Lebanon and Syria. Second, Syria made its gesture to the Reverend Jesse Jackson out of its appreciation of the U.S. forces which are hostile to Reagan's policy and which denounce the U.S. Administration's involvement in the Middle East. This appreciation stems from the fact that these forces are earnestly seeking to create better circumstances between the United States and Syria. Third, the Syrian gesture came as an expression that Syria does not see the existence of any conflict between it and the American people.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The Reagan administration has exerted great efforts, but it knows that it is not the one to be credited for the release of the captured pilot. It also knows before anyone else that the release of the pilot does not mean that there has been any change in the Syrian stands. If the U.S. Administration has not appreciated this initiative, then its nervous reactions by resuming the hostile activities of the U.S. planes over the Syrian and Lebanese Nationalist Movement positions will only lead to increasing tension and the dangers of a clash in the region.

Commenting in its "Behind the News" column, *TISHRIN* says when leader Al-Asad responded to the appeal of the Reverend Jesse Jackson by releasing the captured U.S. pilot, he confirmed by that gesture Damascus' nobility and real search for peace. The paper adds: Perhaps the Americans, who are victims of the U.S.-run Zionist propaganda which portrays the Syrians as warmongers, now realize with whom their administration is dealing, to whom it sent its armies and aircraft carriers, and against whom the U.S. planes carry out their aggression.

The paper continues: The U.S. Administration has tried more than once to portray the U.S. Marines' task in the Middle East as a humanitarian mission whose objective is to achieve peace in war-ravaged Lebanon. But this picture is now gradually changing. The U.S. citizens are beginning to realize that their administration, statesmen, and leaders are telling them lies. The desired peace has not been achieved in Lebanon, and the foreign forces have not withdrawn from Lebanese territory due to Israeli intransigence and the Tel Aviv leaders' insistence on remaining in southern Lebanon. The U.S. forces which came on a humanitarian mission have turned into forces backing only one side in dispute. Therefore, their task is no longer honest or neutral.

TISHRIN says: U.S. Middle East policy, especially after Reagan assumed power some 3 years ago, is erroneous, reckless, and irrational. It is as if the many U.S. envoys who came to the region could not understand the equations in it or did not want to understand these equations. Thus, U.S. policy continued to worsen and to side with the aggressors without taking into consideration the United States' real interests in the region.

When President Reagan speaks about a new policy and new ideas to be conveyed by his envoy Donald Rumsfeld, what is required is that these statements must be interpreted practically and not become part of his election campaign or justify his erroneous policies before the American public. Damascus, which has proved anew its sincere desire to achieve just peace, has carried, and is still carrying, the olive branch in its hand, and will not forget its pan-Arab duties toward the Arab nation. The sword will remain unsheathed in its hand to protect the olive branch and Arab rights and back its just pan-Arab demands and interests.

Commentary on Releasing U.S. Pilot Goodman
JN041946 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Reverend Jesse Jackson left Damascus yesterday with U.S. pilot Robert Goodman, who fell into the clutches of the Syrian Armed Forces after the downing of his plane that had participated in the treacherous U.S. raid on the Syrian forces' positions in Lebanon. The Reverend Jackson, chairman of the Council for the Defense of Civil Rights and a candidate for the U.S. Democratic Party presidential nomination, has expressed deep thanks to President Hafiz al-Asad and Syria for releasing the captive and returning him to his family. Syria's response to the Reverend Jackson's request, which was submitted in the name of mercy, tolerance, and humanitarianism — not in the name of justice — and to the U.S. Government's endeavors to secure the release of the captured pilot has created excitement in the United States and among the Arab people.

President Ronald Reagan sent pilot Goodman to the region and turned him into an aggressor to raid other people's positions and kill innocent people in an undeclared war that the Reagan administration has launched against Syria and the nationalist forces in Lebanon. Syria has released the pilot to express its respect and appreciation for the U.S. figures and forces that oppose the U.S. policies of war and aggression in the Middle East, and to express its position that controversy with the Reagan administration over its aggressive pro-Israeli policy in the region does not mean that Syria is in dispute with the American people, whose real national interests the administration sacrifices in the region. Syria announced more than once that it did not want to enter into war with the United States, and pledged that it would not go to the United States or to its neighboring areas to stage a war against it. Syria also pledged with the same determination that it would defend itself with the required courage and capability against any aggressor, even if it were the United States, one of the two superpowers in the world today. Had Goodman not come to the region as an aggressor, he would not have been captured and his colleague would not have been killed.

The true nature of Goodman's release should be understood in the United States, given the attention it deserves, and considered as an encouraging factor for the U.S. forces inside and outside the administration which oppose U.S. military involvement in the moving sands of Lebanon and the Middle East, in order to halt the adventurist and aggressive policy and refrain from following the Israeli policy that has no limits and harms the U.S. national interests and the interests of peace and security in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, John Hughes, U.S. State Department spokesman, made a statement on the day Syria released the captured U.S. pilot in which he reiterated the U.S. Administration's false allegations that the flights of the U.S. warplanes over Syrian positions are aimed at self-defense and not intended for aggression. This twisted logic, which the United States adopts to justify its military involvement in the region and its participation with Israel in escalating tension and increasing the prospects of a large-scale dispute, is dangerous and will not contribute to the general welfare of the region, U.S. relations with the region's countries, or the real national interests of the American people in this region.

Whatever the circumstances may be, Syria will not retreat from using its legitimate and natural right to defend itself. The aggressors should be responsible for the consequences of their aggressive actions. Syria is not the only party that says that the presence of the U.S. forces in Lebanon and their involvement in an undeclared war will not serve the interests of peace. There are forces in the U.S. Congress and public opinion that also call, as Syria does, for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Lebanon and for ending U.S. planes' aggressive and provocative flights over Syrian forces' positions. President Reagan's problem is gradually turning from a fabricated difference with Syria into a difference within U.S. politics over the soundness and feasibility of Reagan's policy in the Middle East. Although Syria is a small country compared to the United States, the language of gunboat diplomacy is not suitable for holding a dialogue, because Syria refuses to surrender to anyone and abandon its rights and dignity. The will of our masses in defending themselves and their land, independence, and freedom, is strong, glorious, and unlimited. Syria is always ready for dialogue on the basis of mutual respect, equality, and in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, peoples' rights, and international law, because it is confident that its cause is a just and right one and because its arguments are based on international charters, norms, and laws.

French Move Called 'Political Maneuver'
JN050830 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] In the Lebanese capital, political observers have described France's decision to transfer a part of its unit within the Multinational Force to southern Lebanon to serve within the UN Emergency Force [UNIFIL] as a political maneuver which is being implemented through agreement with Washington. The observers pointed out that the purpose of this maneuver is to provide a cover for the continued presence of NATO forces in Lebanon. The observers affirm that the continued presence of this force in Lebanon, under whatever disguise, will only serve the interests of imperialism and Zionism.

Khaddam Receives Iranian Assistant Minister
JN041202 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — At 1000 today, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Hoseyn Sheikh ol-Eslam, Iranian assistant foreign minister. The talks dealt with the current situation in the region.

Az-Zu'bi Sends Message to Parliaments on Situation
JN041848 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi has sent a written message to the speakers of Arab and

foreign parliaments in the world. The message contains a review of the current situation in the Arab region and the dangers which are threatening security and peace in the Middle East as a result of the U.S. and the Zionist entity's policies in this region. The message also reminds the Arab and foreign parliaments of the world's condemnation of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and its call for the Zionist entity to withdraw its invasion forces from Lebanon immediately and without conditions. The People's Assembly message adds: But what has happened is something else. U.S. and NATO forces landed in Lebanon under the cover of preserving security and peace, and 1 and 1/2 years have elapsed without the Israeli invasion forces or the NATO forces being pulled out. It adds: The occupation was also exploited to force Lebanese officials to sign an agreement with Israel that conflicts with Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

The message also asserts that the Israeli, U.S., and French forces have fought against the Lebanese people, and says: These forces shelled the Lebanese cities and villages with various weapons from land, sea, and air. The Israeli and U.S. warplanes also bombed the positions of the Syrian soldiers, who had entered Lebanon at the request of the Lebanese Government in order to end the civil war. The People's Assembly message adds: Thus, the NATO forces' mission has been changed from securing peace and disengaging the warring parties into another side that stages war and kills human beings in Lebanon. The message also affirms that this military escalation, in fact, constitutes a part of a plan to carry out the designs that are aimed at realizing a new Israeli expansion, turning Lebanon into a U.S. military base, and spreading U.S. hegemony over the Middle East, the zone of the vital U.S. interests. This might be explained as a preparation for a new, large-scale, and comprehensive aggression against Syria.

The message concludes: While it discloses these facts, the People's Assembly in Syria is confident that your esteemed assembly, which adheres to Arab rights and rejects aggression against any Arab country, will find a way to express its solidarity and opinion about the measures that it deems appropriate to eliminate tension and achieve security and peace in the Middle East. We believe that these measures are as follows: first, the ending of all military activities and threats of aggression against Syria and its forces in Lebanon and the Lebanese nationalist forces; second, the withdrawal of Israeli, U.S., French, and other forces from Lebanon as a basic step to spead Lebanon's sovereignty over Lebanese territories; and third, Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and respect for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. We will be grateful to receive your views on these issues.

Reaction to Baghdad Agreement With Kurds Cited

Iraqi Front Condemns Agreement

JN041843 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — The Democratic National and Patriotic Front in Iraq has condemned the humiliating talks that the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] held with Saddam Husayn's fascist regime. It also affirmed that these talks have removed this union from the ranks of the national opposition and completely tied its destiny with that of the agent Iraqi rgeime. In a statement that its political leadership issued, the front said: This constitutes an attempt to disrupt the Iraqi national movement and is considered a retreat from the slogan of armed struggle, which is aimed at overthrowing the fascist regime and setting up a national, democratic system hostile to Zionism, imperialism, and reactionaries.

The statement also added that early last month, a delegation from the leadership of the PUK, one of the coalitions in the front, made a surprise visit to Baghdad led by its Secretary General Jalal Talabani without the knowledge of the front and held talks with the Iraqi regime. The statement also held the PUK responsible for its humiliating talks, asserting the front's rejection of all the weak pretexts. The statement also pledged that Iraq's masses will continue to struggle, and appealed to the PUK cadres to announce their absolute rejection of these talks and stop the method of bargaining and defeat in order to save their national honor and continue their loyalty to the souls of the Iraqi national movement's martyrs.

Ba'thists Criticize Agreement

JN050915 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The [dissident] leadership of the Iraqi Ba'th Party has condemned the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] talks with the present regime in Baghdad, because the PUK has thus turned its back to its nationalist alliance, which originally was based on toppling the fascist [Iraqi] regime.

In a statement issued today, the leadership condemned these negotiations and considered them a betrayal of the basic principles of the militant alliance that based its stand on rejecting the principle of negotiations with the present regime in Baghdad and working by all means to topple it. The statement called on all those who are loyal to the cause of their homeland and people to strengthen their ranks, expose the PUK's treasonous trend, and abort the harmful results of these negotiations. The statement also asked the PUK's cadres who are loyal to the cause of their people and the blood of their martyrs to rebel against their defeatist command —which is negotiating with Iraq, to isolate it, and pursue the national course of armed struggle until the fascist Iraqi authority is overthrown.

The statement affirmed our party's stand, through its firm faith in its national and pan-Arab responsibility, against all defeatist invitations and reaffirmed its adherence to struggle. It also affirmed that those who are panting after the crumbs dropped from the table of the fascist Iraqi regime cannot divert our party from overthrowing this agent and fascist regime. We will not be diverted by those who are panting after the regime's false invitations and who have betrayed the cause of their people and homeland. The statement reminded them of their bad experience with the Iraqi regime and the negative consequences of their trend.

Concluding its statement, the leadership noted that the only and comprehensive solution to end the problems of our Iraqi people

and to achieve their nationalist and legitimate ambitions toward establishing a democratic and progressive community in which justice and equality prevails comes basically through expanding and strengthening nationalist alliance, developing its means of struggle, and escalating its military operations. This objective can be achieved through increasing the capability of armed groups to become the spearhead in overthrowing the fascist Iraqi regime and building up a democratic Iraq that achieves real autonomy for Iraq's Kurdistan and contributes to the Arab nation's battles against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionary regimes.

Government, Syria Reportedly Agree on Lebanon Plan
TA050938 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0929 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Officials in Beirut say that Israel and Syria have agreed to President al-Jumayyil's new security plan. According to them, Lebanon will ask the countries participating in the Multinational Force to leave their troops in Lebanon as a sign of their support for the plan. The new plan is designed to expand the jurisdiction of the central government from the Beirut area to a territory of less than one third of Lebanon's territory. Lebanese officials say that the Multinational Force is vital to this end.

AP Cited on Plan
TA051122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Syria and Israel have reportedly given the Lebanese Government the go ahead for a security plan to separate Lebanon's warring factions. The ASSOCIATED PRESS in Beirut quotes unnamed officials as saying that the Lebanese Intelligence Chief, Colonel Simon Qassis, has returned from Damascus with Syria's full approval. And, a special Israeli emissary also arrived in East Beirut saying Israel has no objection. David Essing reports:

[Essing] There is no Israeli confirmation so far of the report. According to AP, the unnamed officials said the security plan is aimed at extending the Lebanese Government's authority from Beirut to less than one third of Lebanon's territory. The official went on to say: We are far away from the ultimate objective of extending state authority to northern, eastern and southern Lebanon. He said the Lebanese Government hoped there would now be fresh assurances that the Multinational Force [MNF] would not pull out, adding the plan would not make it possible for the MNF to leave in any foreseeable date.

The plan was said to call for the establishment of buffer zones in Beirut's embattled southern outskirts and the neighboring Ash-Shuf mountains. The Lebanese hoped that 800 observers from Italy and Greece would police these zones.

Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim today on exactly how President al-Jumayyil would formally announce the new plan. It also calls for a total withdrawal of the Christian Phalangists from all positions they moved into after Israel's advance [as heard] in the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh mountains. The Christian militiamen are also to evacuate areas between Beirut and Israel's Al-Awwali line in the south. These militia forces are to withdraw to Christian-controlled territory north of Beirut. The Lebanese Army is to maintain its current positions in and around the strategic town of Suq al-Gharb, overlooking the U.S. Marine base at Beirut International airport. Lebanese police forces are to be deployed in the Sunni Muslim Haruf region that borders on the Al-Awwali River. The Lebanese would send patrols through this region only in daytime. So much for the AP report.

Earlier, the Druze and Shi'ites were said to have agreed to the plan in return for President al-Jumayyil's agreement to grant them a bigger say in Lebanese affairs. Israel has been urging the Lebanese Army to extend its control in the Beirut area, and the United States has also been prodding President al-Jumayyil to give the Druze and Shi'ites more political rights.

For its part, Israel has also given up its earlier demand for a simultaneous withdrawal of Syrian forces, and Jerusalem has also been taking a softer stand on implementing the May agreement with Lebanon. If the new security plan does go into force it will reduce congressional pressure on President Reagan to pull the Marines out of Lebanon. And, if reports of Syria's approval are true, it would mark a breakthrough.

Further Details
TA051259 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Over the past few hours, Beirut has broadcast reports by sources which are not official that an agreement has been achieved among all the parties involved in the Lebanese crisis about a security plan. This, in fact, is the plan once initiated by Saudi Arabia. At any event, the leaders of the Lebanese Administration and the Saudi Arabian mediator, Rafiq al-Hariri, are now maintaining feverish contacts, and it is expected that an official announcement about the agreement will be issued in Beirut and Riyadh within the next few hours. Well, here is a report by our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus:

[Gurdus — live or recorded] Official sources in Beirut, Damascus, and Riyadh have not yet confirmed the reports from Beirut saying that all parties involved in the crisis in Lebanon have agreed to the Saudi Arabian security plan, and according to one report they will even begin its implementation within the next few hours. The Saudi Arabian plan is based on a stabilization of the cease-fire and a disengagement of forces among the rival camps in Lebanon, under the supervision of international observers. This plan is also aimed at giving the Beirut Government control over territories in Lebanon, from the Beirut coastal strip to the Al-Awwali River.

In this context, around noon the Voice of Lebanon broadcasting station reported that two battalions of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces are to begin to implement the agreement this afternoon, when they leave from camps in B'abda and Shtawrah to the Al-Kharrub region, where they will arrive this evening. This region, which has been an arena for artillery battles between the Druze and Christians up to now, is intended, according to the Saudi Arabian plan, to be transferred to the control of the Beirut government, which will position its security forces there. The Christian Phalangist fighters are intended to leave the area for Beirut. Prior to this, the Voice of Lebanon also reported that Syria had agreed last night to the Saudi Arabian security plan.

The commander of Lebanese military intelligence, Simon Qassis, who spent the last few days in Damascus, brought the last positive explanations from Syria to Beirut this morning. The main mediator in the whole affair is a Saudi Arabian businessman, Rafiq al-Hariri, who met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim in Beirut this morning. Over the past few hours, Salim also met with the ambassadors of Arab countries and Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov in order to report to them about the

latest developments, and hear their governments' reactions. Let us point out, in conclusion, that people in Beirut still regard the Saudi Arabian plan and its chance of success with great pessimism, because there have already been countless agreements in the history of the Lebanese crisis which were not worth the paper they were written on.

Senior Officials 'Fear' Possible U.S.-Syrian Dialogue

TA050923 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 5 Jan 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Moti Basoq]

[Text] Senior political sources yesterday expressed their fear about the possibility that the United States and Syria may soon begin a dialogue at a senior political level. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir intends to raise this subject on Friday when he meets Senator John Tower, the chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee and a confidant of President Reagan.

Fears have increased in Jerusalem especially in the wake of President Reagan's announcement yesterday that he is ready to meet and talk with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Also, the Syrian gesture to Jesse Jackson — a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Presidency — of releasing the imprisoned pilot, turned on a warning light in Jerusalem.

Political sources in Jerusalem expressed fear that the Reagan administration is striving to sign an agreement with Syria which would enable it to pull the Marines out of Beirut in the near future. Israel is apprehensive that a Syrian-U.S. agreement might adversely affect its vital interests in southern Lebanon.

Schiffer Assesses Lebanon Consultations

TA041201 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1115 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Interview with political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer by program moderator Tzvi Lidar — live in the studio]

[Text] [Lidar] Reports are rife in Beirut about an imminent national reconciliation; in Washington there are reports about pressure to pull the U.S. Marines out of Beirut. And what is happening in Jerusalem? We know that consultations are underway, but what is Jerusalem's position?

[Schiffer] Consultations are underway in Jerusalem. This afternoon, the prime minister consulting with Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, Yitzhaq Li'or of the Foreign Ministry, and Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of Israel's activities in Lebanon. During this meeting, the men will continue to discuss what to do about Lebanon and what is to be done about leaving there. Authoritative sources in the defense minister's office told me that there is as yet no intention to effect another withdrawal from Lebanon; there is no talk about an imminent withdrawal in the foreseeable future.Reports to this effect today may be wishful thinking. The sources say there is full coordination with the United States and the Lebanese Government, and that therefore there is no intention to effect another withdrawal.

The proposals being discussed now — which have been discussed for a long time, even before the previous deployment along the Al-Awwali River — revolve around the issue of how to reduce the IDF's casualties in Lebanon, how to reduce our presence there, and how to ensure security for southern Lebanon with a small presence. The plans now being discussed are also not new. The intention is to establish local forces, civil guards, in Lebanon and to strengthen the so-called brigade of Major Sa'd Haddad. Of course, this has also been discussed in view of the condition of Major Haddad who will eventually have to be replaced by somebody else. Israel plans to create some kind of bodies which in the distantfuture, when Israel further reduces its presence in southern Lebanon, will replace the IDF soldiers and preserve security in the area.

Of course, all these reports — including the one we heard today about some kind of a chance for a solution or arrangement among the warring factions in Lebanon — and the increasing number of calls in the United States for a pullout from Lebanon are connected. After all, in talks with President Amin al-Jumayyil,the U.S. Administration explicitly told him: Mr al-Jumayyil, if you do not take over at least the Beirut area, we do not plan to stay; look at what is happening in the United States. Therefore, the Lebanese are currently creating a picture — or the outline of a picture, because there is no certainty that this is indeed the real situation — that they are obviously moving in the direction of an arrangement. They are doing this to placate the Americans and tell them: It is all right, we are working on some kind of plan.

In any case, it should be noted that the increasing number of reports that the Marines are about to pull out are based on very solid grounds in the United States and we would not be surprised if the Marines were to leave the Beirut area within 2 months.

[Lidar] Let us go back for a minute to Israel's position. Is the condition stipulated in the agreement of 17 May that Israel does not plan to withdraw from Lebanon unless the other foreign forces, including the Syrians, do likewise, still in effect?

[Schiffer] A great deal of water has flowed under the Al-Awwali River bridges since then. Israel is slowly but surely giving up the conditions for its entry into and departure from Lebanon. Indeed, it may be stated in the most unambiguous and clear fashion today that Israel is no longer making the departure of its forces conditional on that of the Syrian troops. It has turned out that the agreement Israel signed on 17 May with the Lebanese Government, which represents a very small territory in Lebanon, and with the encouragement of the United States, actually ties the hands of all the parties. This agreement cannot be implemented because there is no way whatsoever to compel Al-Asad to carry out this agreement; there is no desire on either party to force him out of Lebanon. Therefore, as time went by and the number of Israel's casualties increased, Israel has dropped this condition.

In a briefing to political correspondents by a very senior security

source at the beginning of this week, it could be inferred that Israel does indeed no longer insist on this condition and that the only condition it is looking for now and in the next few months is to guarantee security arrangements in southern Lebanon which would guarantee the safety of northern Israel.

[Lidar] A final quick question because our next guest is already waiting at the Knesset studio. Well, what is then happening with the other clauses of the agreement between Israel and Lebanon?

[Schiffer] On this point there is little to discuss because efforts are underway behind the scenes. Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche has been holding contacts to this effect at night and he has been flying here and there. Contacts are underway to try to salvage some of that agreement or to implement some part of that agreement. However, we cannot divulge the details.

Correspondent on 'Unconditional' Withdrawal

TA051006 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The senior political-security level in Jerusalem has decided that there is no room to talk about an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon despite pressure in this direction by [word blanked out] elements who want to reduce Israel's involvement in southern Lebanon, and despite the opposition's call for a comprehensive withdrawal from Lebanon.

At the end of the consultation at the prime minister's office yesterday — with the participation of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, the chief of staff, the chief of IDF Intelligence and officials on the political and security level — a senior political source in Jerusalem said that the Israeli Government believes that there is no more efficient way to secure the northern border now than by a continuing presence in southern Lebanon, and that one should wait until the conditions are created that will make the Israeli evacuation possible.

The sources [as published] confirmed that the issue of security in southern Lebanon and other security questions were discussed in the meeting yesterday [passage blanked out].

The elements [not further specified] assess that any unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon would pull the terrorists and the Syrians into southern Lebanon, and would pose unbearable security problems to Israel, problems it has not yet experienced on the northern border.

POST on Troops in Lebanon, Air Force Raid

TA050618 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Jan 84 pp 1, 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Text] No pullback or dramatic redeployment of Israeli forces in Lebanon is imminent, but there may be some thinning out of units. This is the picture emerging in Jerusalem from top-level deliberations between Cabinet policy-makers and senior army staff.

The government is hopeful that the rival factions in Beirut will conclude a security agreement for the city soon, and that will enable the Lebanese Army to deploy south of the city.

The next phase — Israeli officials are reluctant to predict a date for it — would be the Lebanese Army's crossing the Al-Awwali River to take over some of the area held by the Israel Defence Forces.

On a parallel tack, Israel is pressing ahead with its behind-the-scenes efforts to foster friendly Shi'ite forces in the south. An informed source said yesterday that while these efforts had not yet produced a credible Shi'ite local militia leader, there were grounds for optimism in this respect.

Set in this broad context, the Israel Air Force's short but devastating raid on Syrian-supported Shi'ite terrorists near Ba'labakk yesterday is seen as a signal to the Syrians that despite political controversy at home, the government is not weakening in its determination to achieve its security requirements in Lebanon.

A senior defence source reiterated to reporters here this week that the IDF would only pull-out when the government was confident that security arrangements were in force on the ground that would prevent a return of the PLO to the border zone. The source made it clear this was Israel's only condition for withdrawal. Israel is no longer insisting on simultaneous Syrian withdrawal from all of Lebanon as a sine qua non for ensuring its (Israel's) security requirements.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir discussed the IDF's situation in Lebanon yesterday with Defence Minister Moshe Arens, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi and other key officials. Informed sources spoke cautiously of this meeting. They said it was part of an ongoing deliberation and did not presage any dramatic decisions.

The political and military leadership was concerned, the sources said, about the continuing attacks on IDF units in south Lebanon and much of the deliberation focused on ways of reducing the danger to the soldiers.

While Israeli policy-makers are aware of the growing public pressure in the U.S. to withdraw the Marines from Beirut, the assessment here is that there will be no precipitate American pull-out.

Nevertheless, the knowledge that the MNF [Multinational Force] is destined to be withdrawn fairly soon muct weigh on Shamir because the MNF's withdrawal will inevitably intensify pressures from the Israeli public for an end to the IDF's embroilment in Lebanon.

There was no hint yesterday, according to Israeli sources, from visiting U.S. Senator John Tower as to what he would recommend to President Ronald Reagan on the future of the Marine force in Lebanon. The senator, chairman of the powerful Armed

Services Committee, is in the area on a factfinding mission.

Arriving here yesterday from Cairo, accompanied by Sen. John Warner, Towers met with Deputy Premier David Levi and (separately) with Defence Minister Moshe Arens. He is due to see Shamir this morning before continuing to Syria.

Press on Lebanon, Territories

TA050822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *DAVAR* writes that the suggestion to pass a law which would allow the deportation of residents from the West Bank is a desperate idea that must not be translated into parliamentary reality. As to the Air Force bombardment of Shi'ite terrorist bases in the Ba'labakk area, the question is how efficient such attacks are, since in the past they have proven only slightly advantageous when compared to the damage that can be done to the development of relations which Israel must foster with the Shi'ites of southern Lebanon. The newspaper adds that the IDF cannot stay in Lebanon indefinitely, and it cannot leave southern Lebanon without security agreements. There is general agreement concerning this. The local Shi'ite population would have an important role in any agreement, but relations with this population were destroyed during the war. Anything that contributes to the hostility is a big mistake, and is hurting our own interests.

THE JERUSALEM POST says that although a local press report about an actual master plan for Israel to withdraw from Lebanon soon has been denied, the intention, it seems, does exist. It should be carried out without waiting for conditions of security to be created in southern Lebanon that would render Israel's military presence there wholly unnecessary.

Further Press Commentary

TA051052 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* says that there is a double blessing in the Air Force attacks in Ba'labakk. They proved that the IDF has not collapsed after the big explosions in Beirut and Tyre. They also reminded the terrorists supporting Iran that they had better think twice before trying to attack us.

MA'ARIV finds the only positive point in the economic crisis in the willingness of the government, Histadrut, and the manufacturers to attempt to reach an interim agreement. It will amount to a miracle if an agreement is reached, and in that event the economy will calm down for 3 months.

Defense 'Source' on IDF Manpower Cutbacks

TA041046 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jan 84 p 1

[Report by Mikha'el Gerti]

[Text] The IDF, and the Ministry of Defense have already actively begun to cut back in manpower; career army personnel contracts are not being renewed except for certain professions and those with vital duties. The Defense Ministry is not taking on new people to replace those who are leaving.

All in all the cutback in the current fiscal year totals 5.5 percent of the ministry's budget, and another 3 percent will be slashed during the next fiscal year. The third stage of the cutbacks will take place in the 1985-86 fiscal year, when the defense budget will be 10.3 percent less than it was in 1982-83.

A senior defense source, who confirmed these details, said yesterday that the release of $250 million in U.S. military aid for the Lavi project will make its further implementation possible, and will enable some of the funds intended for this project to be diverted to cover other projects. Israel will continue to produce Merkava tanks and will not purchase tanks from the United States. The Defense Ministry will furthermore make efforts to reduce to a minimum harmful effects on orders placed with local industries, so as to avoid harming the production branch.

The senior defense source said that the process of detailing the defense budget cuts would be completed within a few weeks and the details would then be submitted to the Cabinet.

PORI Poll: Majority Fears Imminent War With Syria

TA050735 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jan 84 p 1

[PORI poll]

[Text] A significant majority fears there is a threat of an imminent war with Syria, according to a nationwide public opinion poll conducted by the PORI Institute and commissioned by *HA'ARETZ*.

Some 75 percent fear there is a threat of an imminent war with Syria, including 45 percent who feel there is "a certain degree" of threat, and 30 percent who think there is "a great degree" of threat.

In contrast, 16.7 percent believe there is no such threat, including 9.6 percent who believe "there is hardly any threat of war" and 7.1 percent who believe "there is not at all" a threat of imminent war with Syria.

The remaining 8.3 percent said they "do not know" whether there is or is not such a threat of war with Syria.

The poll was conducted on a representative sample of 1,200 men and women who were individually interviewed throughout the country.

Reportage on Visit by U.S. Senator John Tower

Arrives 4 January

TA041641 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1510 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 4 Jan (ITIM) — Chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee Senator John Tower arrived this afternoon for a brief visit to Israel, and met with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and with Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee MK Eilyahu Ben-Elisar already today.

On Friday he will confer with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and in the course of his tour he will hold working meetings with Defense Minister Moshe Arens as well. Senator Tower arrived on board a special U.S. Air Force plane.

Holds East Jerusalem Meeting

TA050925 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 5 Jan 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Moti Basoq]

[Text] The meeting yesterday between Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and the chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, John Tower, set a precedent. This is the first time that a senior U.S. personality, on an official mission, has held an official meeting with an Israeli personality in East Jerusalem. As is known, Minister Levi's office is located in the government offices' area near Mount Scopus in East Jerusalem.

About 3 years ago, former Prime Minister Menahem Begin wanted to move his office to East Jerusalem. At that time, the Americans made a big fuss and announced that their representatives would meet the Israeli prime minister or any other official only in the western part of the city. As said, for the first time yesterday, Tower diverted from this guideline and conferred with the Israeli deputy prime minister in East Jerusalem.

Senior government sources yesterday refused to divulge whether the tour Senator Tower will conduct on Friday by helicopter also will include a flight over the West Bank.

Conveys Message for Al-Asad

TA051020 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Jan 84 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator John Tower, will deliver an Israeli message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad today according to which Israel has no intention whatsoever of taking over areas in Lebanon or to hold even one centimeter of its soil for a long period of time.

The U.S. senator, considered one of the most important figures in Congress, will convey to the Syrian president his impression of the talks he held with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and other Israeli officials. The latter told him that Israel would agree to get out of southern Lebanon in the framework of an agreement that guarantees the security of its northern settlements.

Senator Tower and his colleague, John Warner, were impressed with Israel's sincere intentions to end "the Lebanese chapter" as soon as the proper conditions are created.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens yesterday told Senators Tower and Warner that in order for Israel to get out of Lebanon, there must be a strong government in Beirut, and the Lebanese Army must be able to control the south of the country. Arens noted that Israel is interested in the integrity, strength and stability of the regime in Lebanon.

Prime Minister Shamir Meets Israeli Arabs

TA041146 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The meeting between Yitzhaq Shamir and the representatives of the Arab public which was held in the prime minister's office in Jerusalem has just ended. Twenty-seven mayors, religious leaders, and other dignitaries were present at the meeting — among them three belonging to HADASH. They raised the grievances of the Arab population in Israel, among other issues the question of coexistence between Jews and Arabs, equal rights, and the need for a solution to these particular problems.

Arens on Rearrest of Released Ansar POW's

TA041144 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that 16 of the Ansar detainees were detained again on suspicion of involvement in terrorist activity. Twelve of the 16 were released after the suspicions against them were proven unfounded; three are currently being interrogated by the security forces and one suspect has already admitted that he committed a terrorist act in southern Lebanon in which an IDF soldier was wounded. The defense minister gave these details in reply to an urgent verbal interpellation by MK Tawfiq Tubi of HADASH who claimed that, according to his information, 160 of the Ansar detainees have been detained again. Minister Arens rejected this claim completely.

Arens: Jordan Has Not Abandoned Rabat Resolutions

TA050949 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Jan 84 p 2

[Report by Yosef Waxman]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens yesterday stated in the Knesset that Israel has not received any signals from Jordan that it has abandoned the Rabat resolutions, according to which the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinians. Minister Arens was replying to an interpellation by MK 'Aqiva Nof of the Likud. Replying to an interpellation by MK Shevah Weiss of the Alignment, Arens said it would not be wise to reveal what Israel has to propose to King Husayn before the latter joins the negotiating table. "Let him come and say what he is proposing, and then we will say what we have to offer," Arens said.

Jordanian Parliament To Include W. Bank Residents

TA041209 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Jan 84 p 4

[Excerpt] King Husayn of Jordan is planning to announce elections for his country's parliament. Tnere will be 60 seats, and 30 of them will be allotted to residents of the East Bank, with the remaining 30 going to residents of the West Bank.

Jordan's parliament, which had numerous Palestinian representatives, was disbanded 9 years ago, in the wake of the Arab summit in Rabat which recognized the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Now Husayn believes that there is a chance for dialogue with the Palestinian leadership, headed by 'Arafat.

Former Jordanian MP's Depart

TA041649 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1625 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Jerusalem, 4 Jan (ITIM) — Twenty former Jordanian Parliament members, who are residents of Judaea and Samaria, have recently received official invitations from the Jordanian Government to come to visit and hold talks with representatives of the Government in Amman. Seven of them left this morning via the [Jordan River] Bridges en route to Amman, having earlier obtained approval from the civilian administration for this move. Among those who departed this morning are ('Abd al-Ra'ul al-Faris) from Nabulus, (Edward Khamis) from Bethlehem, and (Muhammad Arshid) from Janin. The four others are inhabitants of Tulkarm, Nabulus, Bethlehem, and East Jerusalem.

It was confirmed today by the civilian administration that this is the first time since the Administration was set up 2 years ago that former Parliament members have departed as a delegation to Jordan.

All of them are senior citizens who carry relatively little clout in the West Bank. They served at the time in the Jordanian parliament, half of which was composed of West Bank inhabitants. After the 1974 Rabat conference, King Husayn then disbanded the Parliament and set up the National Consultative Council instead.The activity of the members of Parliament in the West Bank has since been frozen.

In the course of the past few months, the Jordanian media — and particularly Jordanian television — have been reporting that King Husayn was contemplating resuming the parliamentarian activity in Jordan.

ITIM reports that despite the extended massive support for 'Arafat by most of the inhabitants of the West Bank, at present there is an atmosphere of suspense and confusion, which King Husayn is trying to translate into increased support for him.

For that purpose he is even prepared to use the elderly members of Parliament, whose minor influence has not been used in an organized or institutionalized manner to this very day.

Gaza Delegation Prohibited From Leaving for Egypt

TA050921 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 5 Jan 84 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Israel is banning a five-man delegation of public figures from the Gaza Strip, headed by the deposed mayor of Gaza Rashad ash-Shawwah, from departing for Egypt. Our correspondent has learned that in contacts with Egypt, Israel said if the purpose of the delegation is to discuss economic matters, then this should be done through the Israeli Embassy in Cairo rather than through personal contacts between Egypt and the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent notes that the delegation also wants to discuss issues related to the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip during its visit. Nevertheless, our correspondent was told that the defense establishment may hold another debate to examine the possibility of permitting the delegation's visit. The appeal for the visit was submitted to the Israeli authorities about 45 days ago.

Hand Grenade Thrown at IDF Position in Gaza 4 Jan

TA042029 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2025 GMT 4 Jan 84

["IDF Spokesman's Announcement" — ITIM Headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] An IDF soldier was slightly wounded this evening at around 1900 from a handgrenade thrown at an IDF position in Jabalyah in the Gaza Strip. The security forces have begun searching the area and have initiated an investigation.

Foreign Ministry Protests to Italian Ambassador

TA041505 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1452 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Today the director general of the Foreign Ministry rejected the grave accusations against Israel made by the Italian president in a speech to mark the New Year. In a talk with Italian Ambassador to Israel Corrador Taliani, David Kimche said: I must express my regret and dissatisfaction at what was said. The ambassador promised he would pass these remarks on to his government. David Kimche spoke with Ambassador Taliani over the phone, because of the sanctions being taken by the Foreign Ministry staff.

POST: Strikes May Paralyze Local Authorities

TA040953 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] The wave of sanctions is threatening, but still indirectly, to paralyze operations in the nation's local authorities. A Treasury allocation of almost a billion shekels budgeted for the localities is being held up by the Interior Ministry job action.

Qalman Dines, economic adviser to the Union of Local Authorities, has warned that "municipal and town councils will just halt all public services in a matter of days unless the money is transferred by the ministry."

Eli Hilleli, mayor of Dimona, said yesterday: "Even after we

receive our budget allocation from the Treasury, the money will be only enough to cover our bank overdraft and nothing left to pay our workers."

Senior Histadrut officials yesterday blamed the government for the wave of strikes affecting thousands of civil servants and charged that the government was doing nothing to negotiate a settlement of the disputes.

Addressing Transport Ministry workers in Tel Aviv, secretary-general of the Civil Servants Union, Re'uven Ben-'Ami complained that the government was "tormenting workers" by sending prices skyhigh and eroding the value of their wages.

Trade Union department chairman Yisrael Qeysar, at a meeting with department heads, complained that even before the ink was dry on government-Histedrut agreements which called for maintaining the real standard of living, the Treasury unilaterally took steps to achieve the exact opposite.

In Tel Aviv, staff committee leaders from all offices of the Transport Ministry throughout the country met yesterday to discuss possible sanctions beginning next week. The workers are demanding cancellation of the layoffs of untenured workers and the minister's order cutting overtime and kilometrage allowances.

The 2,700 Agriculture Ministry workers today join workers in other government ministries who have started sanctions and are threatening to strike. The Agriculture Ministry workers decided yesterday to take a collective one-day "vacation."

Shalom Shalev of the ministry's workers committee told *THE JERUSALEM POST* yesterday that it opposes the firing of 160 workers demanded by the Finance Ministry.

Defence Ministry workers yesterday instructed workers of the purchasing mission in the U.S. to hold a shop meeting as a prelude to possible disruptions there. Today, the workers here will only arrange transportation for soldiers and supplies.

The sanctions by Interior Ministry staff continued yesterday with applications for passports, identification cards, and birth certificates piling up on desks and workers refusing to process them.

Last night, staff committee leaders met with Civil Service Commissioner Avraham Natan in an attempt to settle the dispute.

About 400 Israel Electric Corporation employees were sent home yesterday and six departments closed. In Ra'anana, all the IEC's offices were shut, but emergency calls from the public were dealt with.

Several departments and offices in Jerusalem, Ashdod and other parts of the central district will be shut today.

Jesse Jackson Interviewed in U.S. by IDF Radio

TA051047 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] In an interview to our radio, Jesse Jackson said that Israel will benefit from his talks in Syria, and that the subject of the Israeli prisoners was not raised in his talks. He added that were he an Israeli he would join the Peace Now movement. Our correspondent Gil Ronen talked with the Reverend Jesse Jackson:

[Begin recording] [Ronen] The black Reverend Jesse Jackson spoke with us from his Washington hotel after a day in which he met with President Reagan and participated in rallies of support in two churches. Jesse Jackson said: I feel good; the release of Robert Goodman eased the tension between Israel and Syria.

He talked of his political policy, saying the United States has a political rather than military role in the Middle East. We are not willing to fight Syria or any of the sides in the civil war in Lebanon, he said.

[Jackson — in English] So long as they kept Lieutenant Goodman in prison, it was an incentive for more combat. His release creates a window out of which Mr Reagan and Mr al-Asad...

[Ronen translates the above and continues] Goodman's release opens a window toward a peace settlement in the region, Jackson noted. To the question of whether friendly relations were formed between him and Al-Asad, Jackson answered that the relations were very friendly, and there was mutual respect between them. Jackson added that Syrian planes were not flying over U.S. territory and were not being downed by the United States, and that therefore, the United States had no Syrian prisoners. We had no bargaining card other than appealing to the kindness of Al-Asad. The purpose of our appeal was to break through the circle of agony that had been created, and President Al-Asad indeed made the necessary gesture, Jackson said. Jackson said: Thanks to this, President Reagan sent Al-Asad a letter, and I hope this will lead to a meeting between the two of them. It is the duty of the U.S. President to meet the leaders of all countries in the Middle East.

Asked whether he thought his meeting with President Al-Asad held political significance for Israel, Jackson answered: Of course it will help Israel. One way to protect a country is through armament, but another is through decreasing the hostility of its neighbors toward it. I think that a comprehensive peace plan for the Middle East must offer a solution which would prevent or minimize war against Israel. These things are important to all of us, but there are 22 different countries in the Middle East, and the U.S. President must meet the leaders of all countries. Jesse Jackson was asked whether he ahd any message for the Israeli nation:

[Jackson — in English] The most basic one is when I was there 4 years ago there was a terrible misunderstanding and I regret it so much.

[Ronen translates the above and continues] Jackson expressed his desire to return to Israel and meet its leaders and people. Jackson said: If I were an Israeli I would probably belong to the Peace Now movement or the Labor Party. I believe that the voice of prophecy, the voice of the prophet who dares to challenge state policy, must be heard in Israel. He added: I believe that Peace Now is a prophetic voice, and its voice must be heard.

The last question directed to Jesse Jackson was whether the Israeli prisoners were mentioned in his talks with Al-Asad. No, he said, and more than this I cannot divulge. [end recording]

MA'ARIV: Syria Receiving Vast Amounts of Soviet Arms

TA041318 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Report by Yosef Walter]

[Text] Since the beginning of Operation Peace for Galilee in June 1982 and up to December 1983, Syria has received $2.5 billion in military equipment from the Soviet Union, military sources told *MA'ARIV* yesterday.

These sources noted that within the context of new weapons being acquired by the Syrian Army, the old T-55 and T-62 tanks are being replaced by modern T-72's, which will soon form the Army's main tanks. So far two of the five armored divisions have been supplied with these tanks.

At the end of the fighting in Lebanon, Syria received vast quantities of arms from the Soviet Union, partly as compensation for its losses in the war, and partly new materiel aimed at providing the Syrians with a deterrent and offensive power against Israel. These arms include some 200 tanks (in part T-72's), about 200 APC's (most of them of the BMP type), about 100 guns, and about 100 trucks, which will be used as rocket launchers and launchers for the surface-to-surface SS-21 missile.

The Soviets have furthermore supplied Syria with several dozen MIG 21 and Sukhoy 22 aircraft, as well as SAM-8 and SAM-9 surface-to-air missiles and new radar equipment.

It has recently been learned that the Syrian Navy is planning to purchase from the Soviets 4 missile-carrying corvettes of the (Ninotchka) type, armed with improved Styx sea-to-sea missiles (which are more advanced than those currently in Syria's possession) and whose maximum range is 45 miles). These ships are also armed with ground-to-air missiles.

Military observers stressed yesterday that the Syrian Army is already stronger than it was before the Lebanese war, and isexpected to complete its buildup in 1984. With the help of some 4,000 Soviet advisers now in Syria, the establishment of two further divisions has been completed — a mechanized division and an armored division, as well as tank and infantry brigades.

At present the Syrian Army has five armored divisions equipped with 3,600 tanks (as opposed to the 2 divisions and 2,000 tanks it had in 1973); 20 armored brigades (compared with the 9 it had in 1973); 3 mechanized divisions (as compared with the 3 infantry divisions it had in 1973); and 30 commando battalions (it had 8 in 1973).

The amount of weapons possessed by the Syrian Army has increased by several hundred percent since 1973: 2,700 APC's and armored vehicles (as opposed to 350); 600 planes (300); 2,300 artillery pieces (500); 2,000 anti-tank launchers (900); 75 surface-to-air missile batteries (35); and 35 naval fighting craft (28 in 1973).

The military sources pointed out that the Syrians carry out frequent maneuvers to maintain the combat readiness and offensive capability of their Army.

Lebanon Court Orders Haddad Military Rank Restored

TA041710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The Lebanese state court today revoked the suspension of Sa'd Haddad from the Lebanese Army, and instructed that he be returned to service, retaining his rank and all his rights. This was reported by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal. The court, comprised of three justices — two Muslims and one Christian — met today. Major Haddad was expelled from the Army about 7 years ago, following a conviction for working against his country's interests. He is currently hospitalized in a Haifa hospital.

LIBYA

Palestinian Body Calls for National Conference

LD041848 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The Secretariat of the Palestinian Arab People's General Congress today invited Palestinian Arab people's conferences all over the Jamahiriyah to hold an extraordinary session on Friday, 6 January.

The Secretariat explained that Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt and its grave consequences at all levels are the first item on the agenda of this extraordinary session. This is according to the resolutions of the Palestinian Arab people's conferences, which were formulated by the Palestinian Arab People's Congress which approved armed struggle as the only way to liberate Palestine. The meeting is called to confront the serious situation caused by this visit, and increasing public pressure to implement the people's will against those who betrayed the people and the national Arab issue — Palestine.

The Secretariat appealed to the Palestinian Arab people's conferences to send recommendations and resolutions regardingthis session to the Secretariat of the Palestinian Arab People's Congress within 7 days of the date of the invitation.

French Foreign Ministry Official Visits

LD040949 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA) — Marc Bonnefous, minister plenipotentiary and director of the department of North Africa and the Middle East at the French Foreign Ministry, last night arrived in Tripoli for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Army's Jabir Receives Upper Volta Official

LD040815 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA) — Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir,commander-in-chief of the armed forces, has received Siks Hamdiyah Askiya [spelling as received], member of the Revolution Command Council in Upper Volta.

TUNISIA

Sporadic Violence Continues in 'Bread Revolt'

Demonstrations, Fires in Jendouba

LD041425 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Excerpt] If a precarious calm is reigning in Tunis, the same cannot be said for Jendouba, 150 kilometers southwest of the capital, where demonstrators and the forces of order are confronting each other. Several public buildings are on fire and the police are apparently having trouble bringing the situation under control.

As you know, what by common agreement is being called the Bread Revolt has caused at least 25 deaths in the south of the country.

'Precarious' Calm in Tunis

LD041917 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Despite an apparent return to calm, Tunisia is now almost completely controlled by the army, and in spite of this further serious incidents occurred this afternoon.

It seems that riots continued south of Tunis, namely in Jendouba. There is a precarious calm this evening in the capital despite sporadic shooting heard in various suburbs. Some of these incidents, very serious ones, were seen by our special correspondent in Tunis, Ulysse Gosset:

Helicopters flying over the poorer districts of Tunis fired at inhabitants today. A woman was injured by a bullet in a northern suburb of the capital. She was lining up for bread when a helicopter appeared over the rooftops and fired at the group of people which were not acting hostile. But the soldiers were carrying out their orders: All gatherings of more than three people are banned under the state of emergency. In another district, a 15-year old was also injured by a shot fired from a helicopter.

Early this morning, after the end of the curfew at 0500 and also this afternoon, machine-gun fire could be heard in the suburbs of Tunis. In the poor districts of the capital the atmoshphere remains one of confrontation; tension is high between the population and the forces of order. In sum, there are reported to be at least two more people killed and several dozen people wounded by bullets in Tunis today. It is a minimum toll say very reliable sources.

At the same time, all is calm in the heart of the capital with tanks, soldiers and guns at the ready, maintaining order. All the important crossroads and official buildings were heavily guarded until the 1800 curfew. Travelers coming from the south and center of the country said that all of Tunisia is patrolled by the army. The capital has just now started its second night of curfew, a night which may become troubled — I have just now heard several bursts of machine-gun fire near the central train station. It is certain that the soldiers are keeping their fingers on the trigger, ready to shoot.

Other Areas Reported Calm

LD041538 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1510 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] We have learned that the situation was back to normal this morning in Susah, Munastir, and Qayrawan, after the disturbances, pillaging and trouble that occurred yesterday, particularly in Qayrawan and Susah.

In Al-Mahdiyah, the situation is calm and no disturbances were recorded in this town. The forces of security and the army are still taking up strategic points in these towns.

In the governorates of Qabis Madaniyin, Sidi Bu Zayd and Safaqis, the situation is back to normal and civil servants and workers this morning went back to work. Bakeries, shops, cafes and stores opened their doors to their customers as usual so that today, life has been generally normal, and nothing was considered likely to disturb or impede its normal pattern.

Medical Workers Summoned

LD041417 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The Ministry of Public Health asked doctors, nurses and hospital workers in all hospitals of the republic to come to their places of work at 1600 as from today, 4 January, until further notice.

Buses Destroyed, Services Disrupted

LD041155 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The national transportation company has announced that because more than 200 of its buses were destroyed yesterday, its services have been disrupted. It is hoped they will gradually be restored (?to normal).

The company informs the public that due to the closure of the schools and universities, school and organization passes are invalid during the period of the closure of these institutions.

Review of 3 January Events

LD041305 Tunis TAP in French 1118 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, 4 Jan (TAP) — The capital and several inland towns were the scene yesterday of painful events. Irresponsible troublemaking elements, hostile to the regime, dragged with them groups of students and engaged in acts of depredation and pillaging of shops, set fire to government buildings, private property, public transportation vehicles and cars, assaulted citizens and damaged their property.

Groups of demonstrators composed of these elements formed in several quarters of the capital, forcing traders to close their shops. Public transportation vehicles were burned and stones were thrown at others. This forced most vehicles to return to their garages. Acts of destruction and vandalism also involved primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.

The forces of order intervened using tear gas to disperse demonstrators and put an end to this situation.

Several inland towns — notably Qafsah, Al Kaf, Qabis, Al Qayrawan and Al Qasrayn — have also been the scene of pillaging and vandalism. These barbaric acts, under the pretext of a demonstration to protect the abolition of subsidies to the prices of cereals and cereal byproducts, were undoubtedly aimed at destabilizing the country and changing the regime.

The forces of order were able to put an end to these acts only in the early evening, taking up strategic points in Tunis and organizing patrols in the main streets of the capital and several inland towns.

Mzali Speaks on Disturbances

LD041246 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2315 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Speech by Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali on 3 January; place not given — live]

[Excerpts] Citizens:

His Excellency, the president of the republic this afternoon signed two decrees. One concerns the proclamation of the state of emergency and the other pertains to a curfew. These exceptional measures have been taken to confront the astonishing and unacceptable situation that has occurred in the country, particularly in the capital, Tunis, resulting in acts of looting, arson, vandalism and violence. This situation started 3 or 4 days ago in certain areas under the pretext of the rise in the price of wheat products, but it developed to the point where we were having political slogans aimed at nothing more or less than overthrowing the regime.

A large number of youths have been misled and taken into demonstrations which were spontaneous but behind which there were plotters and planners who used these youths, these adolescents, for looting and robbery in an attempt to promote panic and instability and to spread chaos.

The government of the supreme combatant [President Bourguiba], which is a popular government and aware of its responsibilities, considers its most urgent duty in such circumstances to be first and foremost the preservation of security — the security of persons, property, and government and private establishments. This is the duty of the state, which the state is going to assume with all the power and capabilities it possesses.

Let all individuals — or rather the small groups — who believe it is easy to destabilise the regime or bring chaos to the country, let them know that their attempts are doomed to failure. And let citizens learn the lesson from what happened today, particularly in the Tunisian capital, in the form of assaults, looting and robberies, and the infiltration of a number of robbers and suspicious individuals into the demonstrations into which, as I mentioned, a number of youths had been dragged.

A number of thieves infiltrated the demonstrations and assaulted people — men and women alike. They entered homes and burned cars. This had happened to us in the past [presumably referring to the January 1978 riots in Tunis], and we see that despite progress and the rise in the standard of living, there are still individuals and gangs who exploit all opportunities to infiltrate and engage in assault, robbery and looting.

Some citizens may ask why these events have occurred so suddenly? Naturally, the start, the pretext, the bogus excuse they have found is the issue of the abolition of the subsidies to grains and grain products. We had in fact addressed you concerning this question. We had explained in the National Assembly and in our statements, in speeches and at numerous meetings — myself and all the collegues in the government and the Political Bureau — and through the information media that this subsidy in fact benefits those who have means, and that the benefit to the poor and the middle class from this subsidy is small.

We had also noted that this government is a popular government, and the head of state in this country fully cares for the poor and the humble, that he shows compassion for them. We had said this government had taken measures which we called accompanying measures. Perhaps some citizens would not have this expression in mind to mean measures accompanying the abolition of subsidies, measures meant to offer compensation to the borders, the citizens, men and women who do not have means like the middle class or those who are well off.

Why should we continue to subsidize the price of bread for tourists, foreigners and the well-off when we are importing wheat from foreign countries and paying for it in expensive dollars, while the trade deficit keeps rising?

We have told you this is not possible. Citizens must believe us. They know we are telling them the truth. They know the only thing we think about night and day is the needy, the people, the masses. If this subsidy fund were to remain as it is, the result would be that most of the income of the state would go to finance the deficit of this fund. Then we would not be able to create jobs. We would not be able to increase the number of work sites. We would not be able to help the needy.

On the other hand, if we lower subsidies and allow only the needy to benefit from them, we would make funds available in order to increase the number of jobs, create work sites and offer loans to manufacturers, traders and the middle class to find a means of living and sources of income.

We have said this, and I further stress that citizens should not listen to the enemies of the people, to devilish insinuation, to the tempter, to Satan. They should not listen to people who want to destroy the regime, those who have no interest in this country being a democratic country, a moderate country, an advanced country. They should not listen to these people but to us when we tell them that we have already made funds available. Three days ago we made funds available, and since last night we spoke to provincial governors to begin offering aid to the needy, offering them money and donations, in advance.

What I personally dislike is the maintainance of the status quo where the rich, the well-off, the foreigners and the tourists continue to enjoy the effect of the subsidies at the expense of the poor class. This pretext was the excuse used by certain enemies of the people to prod the people, making them, the needy, take to the streets, when they were told that their means were going to be taken away. This excuse is untrue.

However, this does not prevent me from underlining once again —and I'm going to conclude with this — that as the duty of the state, the law will have the last word on preserving the interests, lives, property and assets of people at any cost. The curfew will continue, and these measures will continue until we have brought these people to book. We must prevent these bandits, these loiterers and poor wretches who have infiltrated the masses and resorted to this pretext, from causing trouble. We must conduct our investigations in order to know who is behind them. Justice shall have its say, with all seriousness, right and rigor.

I conclude my address with a denunciation and condemnation of these acts of violence and assault. I conclude also with a reassuring word to the masses, to the Tunisian people, that the state is taking care of security and that it has taken enough measures so that the law may have the last word. Thirdly, I reassure the masses of the toiling class that this government, with the permission of the president, will continue its endeavours and adopt all measures to extend a helping hand to the needy and the poor, whether unemployed, disabled, civil servants or workers, so that the rises in the prices of pasta and bread will be given back to them in the form of financial help. Such a compensation will be a just and correct one benefitting those who need it and not those who do not need it.

Trade Union Leader Comments on Price Situation

LD041352 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Excerpt] A short time ago, Ulysse Gosset met with Habib Achour, the head of the General Union of Tunisian Workers [UGTT]. The only legal trade union in Tunisia threatens the government with a general strike if the price increases are not cancelled.

[Begin recording] [Achour] For us, there has been too much damage caused in the country, too much material damage. There has been army and police intervention; there have been deaths. What I am anxious to tell you is that the UGTT as an organization is not itself taking part in these riots. On the contrary, it is holding back its troops, waiting for a solution to be reached between the government and the UGTT.

Naturally, the current state of siege means that we are not in a democracy due to the fact that people cannot circulate as they wish in the streets, because they cannot hold public meetings. I consider this to be an infringement of freedom. But I am convinced that it cannot last very long. Moreover, it is in the interest of the government itself.

[Gosset] Well, Mr Habib Achour, you are no doubt now going to negotiate with the government. What will happen if you do not obtain wage increases, if you do not obtain compensation so that the bread price rise is not felt so acutely by the Tunisian people?

[Achour] For that we shall ask them [the government] to lift these restrictive measures which they have drawn up and decided upon. If there is no agreement, [words indistinct] which will perhaps decide to hold a general strike. It has not been ruled out that the workers might decide on a general strike if the increase is not

satisfactory. We are applying pressure with all our strength to make the government go back on its position, that is, to liberalize the country as in the past. [end recording]

Union Leaders Meet With Government Officials

LD042046 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] A meeting was held today at the prime minister's office and was attended by National Economy Minister Rachid Safr; El-Mezri Chekir; the minister attached to the prime minister for civil service Mezri Chekir; and Social Affairs Minister Mohamed Ennaceur from the government side. Habib Achour, President of the Tunisian General Labor Federation [as heard]; (Tayyeb Bakhouch), the federation's secretary; and (Khalifah Ubayd) and (Ismail Sahbani) attended as members of the federation's executive bureau.

Following the meeting, Habib Achour made the following statement: Discussions at the meeting covered compensation funds. They were held in a free, frank, sincere, and positive atmosphere. They yielded what I consider positive results which were acceptable to us, particularly the present conditions. This result will be submitted to the Tunisian Labour Federation for discussion at its meeting at 1000 on 6 January 1984. The results of the federation's administrative body's deliberations, which we hope will be positive, will be submitted to the government. Thus, we will solve the [word indistinct] workers' problem.

SOMALIA

SNM Leader Begins Tour of 'Friendly Countries'

EA022027 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 2 Jan 83

[Text] The chairman of the Somali National Movement, SNM, wing of the Somali opposition forces, Mr Abd al-Qadir Kosar Abdi, and his delegation left for an official tour of a number of foreign countries on 31 December 1983.

Mr Abd al-Qadir Kosar Abdi, who was accompanied by the administrator of the Information Section of the SNM, Abdi Yusuf Dualeh (Bobe), and the administrator of the Political Division of the SNM, Husayn Muhammad (Hanan), left for a number of friendly countries for talks with their leaders on ways of strengthening and stepping up aid to the SNM wing of the Somali opposition forces so as to hasten the demise of the Mogadishu regime, which is hated by the Somali community, and thus to retrieve the democracy and freedom of the Somali people usurped by the Mogadishu terror regime headed by Siad Barre.

U.S. Technician Said Killed by Government

EA022031 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] One of the American technical experts working in Somalia has been killed by the repressive organs of the Siad administration in Hiran region. The Radio Halgan reporter in Hiran region says that he was one of the many American citizens currently working on various projects in Somalia. Our reporter adds that this particular technical officer was in charge of the water drilling project in Hiran region.

The American officer was killed after refusing to accede to personal interests, an action which conflicts with the principles and morals of the American officers working in Somalia.

This is not the first time that Siad's repressive organs have done such a thing in the name of upholding the national interests of Somalia.

Government Accused of 'Exterminating' Civilians

EA031141 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Toward the end of December 1983, the repressive organs of Siad Barre killed eight civilians in Ghel Gudut region. The Radio Halgan reporter of the Ghel Gudut region reports that the killings are part of the campaign of mass extermination of civilians suspected of opposing Siad's illegal regime. The extermination of civilians continues unabated in Tog Dheere, Mudug, Senag, Nugaal, and the northwest regions of Somalia.

UGANDA

400,000 Exiles Said Returning From Zaire, Sudan

EA010633 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1000 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Kampala — Some 400,000 Ugandan exiles, including members of the defeated army of ousted dictator Idi Amin, have returned home from Zaire and Sudan. According to an official in the Ministry of Rehabilitation, the returnees included a former minister of education in Amin's regime, Brigadier Barnabas Kili. The independent Ugandan weekly newspaper *EQUATOR* quoted the official as saying that 300,000 of the refugees had been living in Zaire and the remainder in Sudan. It said the refugees had settled in the Arua and Moyo areas of the West Nile.

President Milton Obote has repeatedly urged Ugandans in exile to return and take part in the rebuilding of the country.

UK Offers Technical Aid For Ugandan Mass Media

EA041530 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The British Council and the British Overseas Development Agency [ODA] have offered technical assistance to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to rehabilitate the mass media in the country over the next two financial years, 1984-85 and 1985-86. In a letter to the minister, Dr David Anyoti, the representative of the British Council in Uganda, Mr (Keith Bird), said this year the ODA will offer up to five awards tenable in Britain for specialized media training in areas to be determined by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. All costs will be met by the ODA, and the individual training program will be arranged and administered by the British Council. The Council will also arrange visits to Uganda by specialist British personnel in the fields of broadcast technique and training, news reading and news casting, and media librarianship and archives.

The first news reading and news casting visit will take place in July or August this year. The purpose of the broadcast technician training visit will be to assess the capacity and to advise upon the training role of the engineering training school in the field. The media librarianship visit will aim to advise on the establishment, operations and maintenance of small-scale specialized media libraries for Radio Uganda and TV, the Directorate of Information, and the *Uganda Times* newspaper. In addition, the British Council expects to be able to offer donations of books and other information materials. The British Council and the British Overseas Development Agency will jointly fund and arrange training workshops in the fields of radio production with special emphasis on the production of educational programs and journalism with assistance of the (Thomson) Foundation. Each workshop will entail eight-man weeks of consultancy. On books and films to Uganda, the British Council plans to introduce a film loan service in the country this year.

CAMEROON

President Biya Views 1983, Upcoming Elections

AB302310 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 30 Dec 83

[English translation of Cameroonian President Paul Biya's New Year's address and presentation of his action program as a candidate for the 1984 presidential elections on 30 December 1983 in Yaounde — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] My dear countrymen, I am pleased at the close of 1983 and at the beginning of the new year to extend to each of you my best wishes for good health and happiness, and wishes of harmony, peace, and prosperity to the entire nation. The year that isending, which almost coincided with the inauguration of the new presidency on November 1982, was marked by particularly outstanding events and activities in the history of Cameroon. The year that is about to begin also promises to be filled with major events,such as the presidential elections on 14 January. Since we are at the beginning of the election campaign, this address is also the message to launch that campaign. Thus, after the wishes I have just extended to you, the traditional stocktaking of the year's activities will also present to you my record during the first year at the helm of the state. In like manner our evaluation of the prospects for the new year will highlight the components of the programs which I, as a candidate, propose to the nation for the coming years.

Abiding by these wishes, meeting these commitments and answering these hopes, dear fellow countrymen, would have been my essential tasks and your main concern. However, this would have meant ignoring reactionary forces and the ambition of men. It would have meant ignoring the agents of division and destabilization. Lastly, it would have meant ignoring the enemies of the republic and of change. With the precious and irreplaceable assistance of everyone, I therefore had to exercise vigilance and use my determination in unmasking them, forestalling their maneuvers and rendering them harmless to the nation and Cameroonians. In this way, national unity was preserved and the security of the nation was safeguarded. The preeminence of the state over all other social and political institutions was reasserted. Economic growth was maintained and Cameroon's credibility abroad was preserved. In this regard, it became necessary to take successive measures aimed at improving structures or affecting the utilization of human resources. The following were adopted:

Political and administrative measures such as the creation of new territorial units, new external services, and the reform of the Budget and Accounts Disciplinary Board.

Military and security measures dealing with the reorganization of the Armed Forces and the national security.

Diplomatic initiatives aimed at consolidating our external relations and participating in finding solutions to Africa's and the world's problems which require Cameroon's involvement.

Fellow Cameroonians, dear electors, I have just recalled that we are at the beginning of the campaign for the presidential elections of 14 January 1984. It is an important event, in so far as each and every one of us and the people in whom national sovereignty is vested, and who are responsible for their destiny, will freely choose the person who, for the next 5 years, will assume the highest office of the state and lead the nation to a brighter future. The event is also of significance to the person entrusted with such an office, who must at all times be answerable to the nation, the world, and history, and who cannot, in our system of ruling democracy, validly assume the office without an accepted program of action and consequently, without wide popular support. Fully aware of such an immense responsibility and of what, within the present context of our country, we expect of the president of the republic and also on the basis of the tasks already accomplished at the service of the nation, I present myself to you as the candidate of the New Deal, the New Deal of 6 November 1982, the New Deal of 14 September 1983.

Indeed, the determination to offer a New Deal neatly sums up my program of government as can be seen, outlined as a true [word indistinct] for a new society, in the 14 September manifesto and as summed up in my electoral address. This program, which has been warmly received by the vast majority of Cameroonians, requires the formal and official approval of the people. In this way, we will, on the one hand, be preserving the positive (?aspects) of the early options of the nation, and on the other hand, confirming the new options of rigor and moralization, liberalization and democratization, more harmonious development, and reinforced and extended social justice; all of which will be based on a new dynamism marked by a new style. In our country, vigor must become a reality in the various facets of the public, collective and individual lives of the Cameroonians. With regard to administrative and economic matters in particular, it must be the springboard, the regulator and the barometer of our endeavors, ensuring that we obtain better overall results. Rigor condemns and rejects irregularities, lateness, laxity, wastefulness, routine, mediocrity, the lack of duty consciousness and irresponsibility. It also instills into national activity vigor, life, quality, productivity, and efficiency, which are necessary for sound and lasting success. For our young developing nation, rigor is therefore one of the effective weapons against underdevelopment and for progress.

I have therefore led the country onto the difficult, certainly, but salubrious path of openness, an openness which I am hoping will be and would be conscious, tolerant, and constructive, which will be carried out in an orderly and responsible manner, an openness which I consider to be (?fresh) evidence of politicalmaturity. I am firmly determined to continue on this path of openness within the framework of our laws and regulations and with due respect for the fundamental [word indistinct] of the nation.

Liberalization, as concerns public freedom in particular, is freedom of thought and of speech, a factor of creativity through the development and discussion of ideas, of fulfilment through participation. Liberalization is for all social classes of all Cameroonians at home and abroad. With regard to democratization in particular, it is a process that must increase and be translated into reality, developed, consolidated with respect for the necessary balance which must be permanently maintained between order, freedom and progress. It is one of the fundamental and specific options of the New Deal. In the long run, it is aimed at

protecting or completing our experience of a ruling democracy which is truly authentic but orderly, peaceful, and effective. By realistically introducing pluralism into our political life, it means that from now on, the leaders and representatives of the state and of the party at all levels may be freely elected from among several candidates, by citizens or militants. This would have been the case for the forthcoming elections and there been other candidates for the office of president of the republic.

Fellow countrymen, while continuing to implement and strengthen the New Deal policy at home, I intend to give the same new impetus to our foreign policy. Owing to its geographical position, its history and determination, Cameroon has been able to give its foreign policy a new dimension commensurate with its ambitions and the problems facing Africa and the contemporary world.

In this regard, our policies of independence, noninterference and nonalignment, friendship, good neighborliness, and cooperation, the liberation of all peoples, development and peace, are one of the invaluable assets of esteem and credibility. They achievements have been preserved, and even strengthened and increased. Greater efforts will be made along these lines in the future as a result of more active participatory and influential diplomacy with all our partners, states and organizations in Central Africa, the rest of Africa, Europe, America, Asia, and the rest of the world, with which we will strive to maintain, at various levels, the beast possible relations of friendship and cooperation.

It is necessary that Cameroon's enlightened, realistic, and (?balanced) action should be reckoned with whenever necessary and called for. Cameroon should in fact pay attention to the persistent crisis sweeping across Africa and the tension or conflict which threatens the security of any state or world peace becaue the forthcoming year, like the one just drawing to a close, is fraught with dangers and therefore calls for our vigilance and solidarity.

Fellow Cameroonians, dear electors, such is the broad outline of the domestic and foreign policy program which I am proposing to the nation for the coming year. While standing for elections I am also submitting this program to you for approval. As I said at the beginning of this address, the president of the republic can efficiently perform his tremendous task only if he had your support and on the basis of a well-defined program that is freely accepted by Cameroonians who are aware of the challenges of nation building. This is why I have decided to ask more solemnly and formally than ever before for your support and overhelming, enthusiastic and patriotic support commensurate with the commitments to be made and the responsibility to be assumed in the world, support which binds the seal of my commitment, seals the contract of confidence and solidarity that must bind me to you, my fellow countrymen.

Aware of the depth and truth of your attachment to my person and to national institutions, remembering the cordial tokens of sympathy and loyalty that you have so far gladly shown me, especially from November 6, 1982, during my tour of the provinces, on August 22, on September 14, on November 6, and just after declaring my candidature, I have no doubt that true to yourselves and in keeping with your convictions, you will, in an atmosphere of discipline, enthusiasm, and freedom, go to the polls on January 14, 1984, to confirm in the office of president, the person who is already serving you and who intends to keep burning the torch of the New Deal, of progress, and of national unity by working hand in hand with you with more (?haste) and eagerness so as to continue with the building of a strong but more legal and democratic nation, a Cameroonian society that is united, peaceful, just, and prosperous. Long live Cameroon!

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

President Kolingba Reveals 1984 Economic Goals

AB041310 Paris AFP in French 1130 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Bangui, 1 Jan (AFP) — CAR President General Andre Kolingba has announced that in 1984 a major program will take off making it possible to increase his country's cotton production to record levels and to attain a surplus of food crops in the northern part of the country. "Also, the first consequences of the considerable program of road construction and the implementation of other projects will be felt," the head of state said in his radio and television New Year message to the nation. Furthermore, after 2 years of negotiations with promoters and financiers, the textile industry will be revived while hotels will be rehabilitated in 1984, Gen Kolingba stated.

The president, who recalled the mistakes made since he took over power on 1 September 1981 and the discontent and impatience which they generated among some of his fellow countrymen, held the view, however, that the result of his action is quite positive. "In spite of appearances, our finance and our economy are about to be restored, which alone will bring about economic growth." He stated that the CAR had overcome a number of political pitfalls without resorting to constraint, terror, or human rights violations, and he issued a warning to "those who value violence."

CHAD

Libyan-Backed Forces Seen Threatening Northwest

AB042046 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 4 Jan 84

[By Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Ndjamena, Jan 4 (AFP) — Libyan-backed rebel Chadian forces fighting the government of President Hissein Habre are threatening to cut a major north-south road in northwest Chad, informed sources said here today. Chadian regular units were being placed on alert, the sources said.

Meanwhile, however, several hundred rebel soldiers in southern Chad have agreed to cease hostilities against the Habre government during the past several weeks, the sources said, and had congregated in southern towns.

The sources spoke ahead of next Sunday's opening of an Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting in Addis Ababa aimed at resolving the Chadian civil war.

The sources said Libyan troops and rebel forces loyal to ex-President Goukouni Oueddei, head of the Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT), were threatening a government outpost at Iriba, on the north-south road near Sudan.

Chadian Government troops and an 800-man French garrison at Biltine, 250 kms (150 miles) away, were monitoring the GUNT and Libyan troops, who had not clashed with Ndjamena forces.

Mr. Goukouni, who was ousted by President Hissein Habre 19 months ago, has agreed to go to Addis Ababa on January 9 in the capacity of the head of one of Chad's warring factions, and called on Mr. Habre to do the same.

Mr. Goukouni added that [if] Mr. Habre insisted on calling himself the "legitimate" head of state, he would be forced to revise his position.

Disagreement on this point could lead to a collapse of the negotiations.

In southern Chad, rebels in Salamat Province who used to support the second ranking member of the GUNT Government, Abdelkader Kamougue, have agreed to support the Habre regime after four months of negotiations with Agriculture Minister Djdingar Dono Dgardoum.

The southern rebels rallied to the Ndjamena government after President Habre agreed to let them keep their arms, reintegrate them into the National Army and punish northern soldiers alleged to have committed atrocities against the local population.

Mr. Habre did not agree to the rebels' demand that government forces withdrawn from the region but put a former rebel commander in charge of the southern town of Moundou.

In the cotton-growing region, which produces Chad's chief export, the government is in tentative control outside the major towns.

On December 29, attackers killed three people, including a soldier and an official of the national cotton company Cotontchad, and made off with a cotton cargo worth 5,000 dollars.

Cotton employees have been attacked four times since mid-November, sources here reported.

Habre Reaffirms Desire for Accord at OAU Meeting

AB032202 Paris AFP in French 1900 GMT 31 Dec 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 31 Dec (AFP) — The Government of Chad will meet "the various opposition leaders to finish off the reconciliation negotiations" in Addis Ababa on 9 January, the Chadian head of state Hissein Habre stated on Saturday.

Responding favorably to the invitation of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, current chairman of the OAU, Hissein Habre, in a New Year message to the nation, expressed "his ardent desire" and his "willingness constantly reaffirmed" to see this Addis Abab meeting end up "with happy results for the Chadian people."

"But let no one be mistaken: It is not a question of going back to the hideous system of factions," warned the Chadian head of state, for whom Libya remains the "indomitable enemy" of Chad.

Hissein Habre accused the Tripoli regime of being responsible for the "disastrous" situation in Chad because of the war "imposed on us by Libya."

On the domestic scene, the Chadian head of state, who declined to make an "exhaustive report" on his 8 months in power, said his government will deal drastically with any embezzlements and corruption in the management of public property. On the achievements of his government, Hissein Habre mentioned the restoration of telecommunication networks, the consolidation and redynamization of state authority "after many years of anarchy," and the reopening of the university of Chad after 4 years of inactivity. This reactivation of the administration, the economy and other social sectors "enables us to assert that the Chadian state has become an "uncontested and incontestable reality," President Hissein Habre stressed.

Observers note that in his statement, President Hissein Habre systematically declined to name the "friendly countries."

The Chadian head of state also said that the participation of Chad in the last meeting of the Economic Community of Central African States, CEEAC, created in August of last year in Libreville, and in the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa, shows Ndjamena's desire (?to opt) for regional cooperation.

Government, Rebels Reach Cease-fire Agreement

JN041912 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 4 Jan (SUNA) — A reconciliation and cease-fire agreement has been reached by the Chadian Government and the mutinous Red Division forces [quwwat al-firqah al-hamra' al-mutamarridah] in southern Chad. The signing of this agreement took place during the past 2 days at (?Danamaji), which is 30 kilometers from Chad's border with Central Africa.

A SUNA report from Ndjamena said that the Chadian Government will ensure the necessary requirements and supplies for the division's forces in order to join the Chadian National Army, and added that the representatives of these forces had called on Chadian President Hissein Habre to make efforts for achieving peace and national reconciliation throughout Chad. The report also said that the commanders of this division and those of another division, who voluntarily joined the Chadian Army last month, will organize a political meeting at (?Muinshari) governorate today in which they and the central government's representatives will discuss the reconciliation and cease-fire agreement.

President Habre recently had sent a delegation to southern Chad under the minister of agriculture and rural development to investigate the acts of disorder, theft, highway robbery, and killing of innocent people which these forces used to carry out throughout southern Chad, with the aid of mutinous 'Abd al-Qadir Kamuti, who considers these forces as the backbone of his forces of sabotage in southern Chad. The number of the Red Division members was not known, but the number of those who voluntarily joined the Chadian Army last month was more than 1,000.

Goukouni Oueddei Delivers New Year's Address

AB041200 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Speech by Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government, on the occasion of the new year in Bardai — date not given — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Martyred Chadian people, one year is ending, while another is beginning. As tradition demands, I have the duty to address you.

With the presence of thousands of French paratroopers equipped with powerful weapons at the side of the Zairian contingent, the Chadian conflict has been internationalized. In the face of the aggravation of the Chadian tragedy and its attendant threat against peace in Africa and the world over, the OAU and some of its member-states did not want to sit back and watch. To their peaceful move launched from Addis Ababa and aimed at national reconciliation, the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] which I am chairing has given a favorable response. However, the enemy only agreed to the principle of a dialogue among Chadians under the pressure put on him at the Vittel conference of heads of state of Africa and France. The round-table talk initially scheduled to begin on 21 December was eventually postponed until 9 January at the request of the FAN faction for obscure reasons. Right now, Chadian people affected by long years of civil war are looking forward to a negotiated settlement of the Chadian conflict. In the interest of these Chadian populations, the GUNT and its component factions will do everything possible to make 1984 the year of lasting and just peace in Chad. The upcoming conference on national reconciliation is for us a big stake because on the basis of the factions signatory to the Lagos Accord, ways and means must be found to develop better living conditions for the Chadian people without any external interference.

Martyred Chadian people, 1983 was undoubtedly marked by constant efforts toward the full achievement of total unity among us. In this regard, the recent creation of the National Liberation Council [CNL] is a positive and decisive step toward peace and national stability. Once again, I urge the factions signatory to the agreement creating the CNL to nourish firm faith in the future and the role of that supreme organ of our liberation because success in this unifying undertaking will depend both on victory over ourselves and over imperialist-reactionary forces.

I ask refugees, exiles, students, and all Chadians abroad to redouble courage and patience and not to yield to the present difficulties. I will work hard to enable them to return to the homeland.

On behalf of the Chadian people, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to friendly progressive people, especially to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and to the sister Republics of Benin and Congo whose support for our cause has never failed us, to all fighting and militant Africans.

At a time when in the south of our continent, South Africa — the very country training the FAN — confronts our Angolan, Mozambique, Namibian, and Azanian brothers, their salavation will depend on the active solidarity of the progressive forces of Africa, and our own salvation will depend on the harnessing of our means of defense.

We must also show solidarity with our Arab brothers who are the victims of the racist policy of Israel, the same country that provides support to the Ndjamena group.

We also thank Nigeria, Cameroon, and the CAR, which have sheltered with generosity thousands and thousands of Chadian refugees. We also thank wholeheartedly all the African countries that have been doing everything to help us find a peaceful solution to our internal crisis.

I urgently appeal to international organizations, especially the UN High Commission for Refugees, to assist our refugees who are affected by the haunting fear of civil war. I call on all countries and international organizations to understand the situation of our students and to help them carry on their studies without any political considerations.

In conclusion, I reiterate my ardent wishes for peace, happiness, health, and prosperity so that Chad will live long, united, and strong.

GABON

Italy's Andreotti Arrives, Visits Railway Project

AB032226 Paris AFP in French 1545 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Libreville, 3 Jan (AFP) — Guilio Andreotti, Italian minister of foreign affairs, began a 2-day official visit to Gabon on Tuesday morning in Libreville at the invitation of his Gabonese counterpart Martin Bongo.

During this visit — the first made by an Italian foreign minister — Mr Andreotti will be received by the Gabonese president, Omar Bongo, as well as by the prime minister, Leon Mebiame.

On Tuesday afternoon the Italian minister went to Booue in northeastern Gabon — about 500 kilometers away from Libreville — to inspect the "Trans-Gabon" railway, a project in which Italy is participating in along with 10 European firms. Apart from the "Trans-Gabon" project, there is cooperation between Italy and Gabon in the fields of finance and professional training. It will be recalled that in 1975 Italy loaned Gabon approximately $15 million. Other loans are being negotiated, according to diplomatic sources.

GHANA

GRAPHIC Comments on Nigerian Military Takeover

AB040835 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Press review]

[Text] The *PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC* comments on the military takeover in Nigeria. The paper recalls that the new regime has spoken of concern over corruption and the plight of the masses, many of whom have not received their salaries for months. It hopes those who have taken it upon themselves to reshape the destiny of their country mean what they say.

The *GRAPHIC* also hopes they are not making rhetorical statements in the file of many of the regimes which Nigeria has seen before but they intend to lead the country to a transformation which would make social justice a reality. The paper recalls that the Supreme Military Council in Ghana in the late 1970's which gave initial hopes to Ghanaians turned sour because the senior military officers became distant from the people and more and more concerned with self-agrandizement, and the *GRAPHIC* again hopes Nigeria will look at Ghana's past experiences and recognize the need to involve the ordinary people — the lower ranks of the military and the grass roots — if they were to succeed in bringing the real democracy offered in intention to Nigeria.

LIBERIA

Doe Comments on Foreign Policy, Economy

AB032148 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] A national foreign policy commission has been constituted to study Liberia's foreign policy. The Liberian leader, Commander in Chief [CIC] Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, said in his New Year's message today that the commission members will be drawn from government institutions of learning, the business community, youth organizations, and the media.

On Liberia's economy, Dr Doe said in spite of the deterioration in our terms of trade due in part to the collapse in the demand for the primary export commodities, the hard debt burden, and the worldwide recession, Liberia was able to maintain its economic stability during the past year. Dr Doe also said because of the serious economic situation facing Liberia, government has sought to institute some economic reforms. The Liberian leader also said this was the main reason why government decided to cultivate the support and understanding of the international community. CIC Doe said it was in this light that an international conference of donors was convened in France and Switzerland for the purpose of mobilizing much assistance for the development of Liberia.

Former Envoy to USSR Assigned to Taiwan

AB032208 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] Former Liberian Ambassador to the Soviet Union Mr J. Christopher Ricks will on tomorrow, 4 January, be commissioned Liberia's ambassador to the Republic of China. Mr Ricks replaces Ambassador Joseph Saye Guannu, who has been recalled.

Trial of Alleged Plotters To Resume 4 Jan

AB032151 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] The trial of the alleged coup plotters resumes tomorrow morning at 1000 at the special military tribunal. The tribunal chairman, Major General Alfred Gayflor, told our reporter today that 19 persons will be tried. He said the accused would be tried on charges of high treason, contravention of People's Redemption Council (PRC) Decree No 2 and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. PRC Decree No 2 and the Uniform Code of Military Justice Acts forbid the conspiracy of persons or security officers and government officials to engage in acts that will undermine the social and economic stability of the government.

The trial was postponed last week by the tribunal at the request of the defense counsels, who argued that the accused were not given a chance to meet with their lawyers before appearing in court. The chairman of the tribunal also told our reporter last week that the trial could not be held because of administrative reasons. He said today that these problems have been solved.

NIGERIA

Buhari Holds 'World Press Conference' in Lagos

AB051252 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, has described his administration as a continuation of the past military regime, and will therefore pursue the foreign policy enuciated by that government. Addressing a world news conference in Lagos today, Gen Buhari said Africa will continue to be the centerpiece of Nigeria's foreign policy with vigorous attention being focused on the pockets of decolonization in parts of the continent.

Answering another question, the head of state stated that Nigeria was anxious to remain a member of OPEC as the [words indistinct] a virile oil market in which their products were sold at prices collectively agreed upon.

On the domestic scene, the general reviewed the revenue of the nation from the ousted regime, and noted that it had gradually worsened from a credit of about 696 million naira to a deficit of

3.9 billion naira last year at the federal level. He added that the states were no better because their combined budgetary deficit rose to 5.3 billion naira in (?1982). The head of state pointed out that the indiscipline in the former government's spending habits was even more pronounced in the external sector of the economy and pointed out that out of every 1 naira of new money created, 68 kobo was spent on imports.

Gen Buhari said (?press) reports that former President Shehu Shagari was brought in Lagos in handcuffs were (?most) untrue, adding that the deposed leader was brought in Lagos in the normal way and was at present in protective custody.

More on Buhari's Comments to SMC Members

AB041100 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The membership of the Supreme Military Council [SMC] has been enlarged by 3, bringing its strength to 19. An announcement at Dodan Barracks shortly before the swearing-in of members of the council gave the names of the new members as Captain Ebitu Ukiwe of the Navy, Brigadier P. Omu of the Army, and Air Commander Lawrence Koinyam of the Air Force. The oaths of allegiance and office were administered by the head of state and commander of the Armed Forces, Major General Muhammadu Buhari. In a speech after the ceremony, Gen Buhari said that the oath-taking afforded the members as a team an opportunity to restate, reflect, and reaffirm the great ideals and deep sense of nationalistic mission which necessitated the establishment of the administration. He noted that the 4 years of civilian administration had been characterized by harrowing and intolerable economic conditions and astronomical inflation arising from the gross mismanagement of the nation's resources by an inept, purposeless, and insensible leadership. The head of state remarked that the common man expected that the 1983 elections might enkindle in the leadership a better sense of direction. But the conduct of the general elections throughout the country completely eroded the confidence of Nigerians in the electoral process as a means of effecting a change in political leadership. Even then, continued Gen Buhari, the hopes of the people were further dashed when the leaders refused to turn a new leaf and correct the wrongs of the previous 4 years.

The Nigerian leader pointed out that the country has witnessed in the 23 years of its existence as an independent nation the highest rate of inflation, unemployment, mass retrenchment, the (?folding) up of its economic system, while a few wallowed in affluence. He emphasized that the image of Nigeria, both at home and abroad, became paralyzed by corruption, smuggling, and robbery, while the ousted regime was hapless in dealing with the situation. The head of state said that it was, therefore, in the best interest of the hungry and suffering masses of this country that the Armed Forces decided to intervene and rehabilitate the nation to its pride, at least, for Nigerians. Gen Buhari promised that his administration would go about its set objectives with all speed to ameliorate the living conditions of the masses and inject a new sense of purposeful direction in the management of the nation's economy. This is because the economic revival of the nation is the number one priority and all resources at the disposal of the council must be geared toward achieving these objectives. He stated categorically that in doing this he would not be interested in the theories of economic growth and gross domestic product but he based his development program on such indicators as the availability of the essential of life such as drinking water, electricity, food, and the other basic necessities at prices within the reach of the lowest income earner in the country. He expressed confidence in the ability and willingness of his colleagues in the council to work in concert to rescue the country from the abyss into which it had been plunged by the misrule of the last 4 years.

The general said he was sure he was expressing the collective will by assuring all Nigerians that his administration would offer a selfless service with the guidance of God.

A radio State House correspondent reports that the new federal attorney general, Mr Chike Ofodile, and the new director of the Nigerian Security Organization, Ambassador Daura Rafindadi, were named and sworn in as members of the council.

He said that the council later went into a closed-door meeting during which it is expected to appoint members of the Federal Executive Council and the Council of State.

Buhari Addresses Diplomatic Corps at State House

On 'Corrective' Security Measures

AB041613 Lagos NAN in English 1546 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 4 (NAN) — The Federal Military Government is determined to institute urgent corrective measures to guarantee the security of Nigerians as well as foreigners in the country, the head of state, Maj-Gen Muhammadu Buhari, said in Lagos today.

Addressing members of the diplomatic corps at State House, Marina, Maj-Gen Buhari said that the government would also ensure improvement in the quality of life through the prudent use of resources in the country. He said that the government attached the greatest importance to relationships between Nigeria and all countries, adding, "we are determined to maintain and strengthen the link" to promote mutually-beneficial cooperation.

Maj-Gen Buhari assured the diplomats that Nigeria's bilateral and multilateral commitment to the international community would be honored. He said that the privileges and immunities of the members of the diplomatic corps did not insulate them from the escalating cost of living nor did it protect them from the general insecurity "whereby lives became unsafe day and night as a result of the glaring activities of armed robbers."

The head of state said that those who plundered the national treasury were the least able to check other lesser miscreants — "their so-called ethical revolution programme not withstanding."

He said that the economic mess, the corruption and the unacceptable level of unemployment could not be excused on the ground that Nigeria was a practising democracy. Democracy at that price, he said, was not in the interest of the people nor would it be acceptable anywhere. He said that the intervention of the

Armed Forces therefore was to arrest the imminent catastrophe which would have been the inevitable result of the course being charted by the politicians.

Replying, the dean of the diplomatic corps, El-Hadj Yerima Lamine, expressed gratitude to the head of state for the meeting. El-Hadj Lamine, who is also the Cameroonian ambassador to Nigeria, promised that members of the corps would relate the briefing they had received to their various countries without delay. He said that members of the corps appreciated the good intention of the Federal Military Government to continue the mutual relationship with other countries.

On Bribery, 'Political Thuggery'

AB050839 Lagos NAN in English 0825 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 4 (NAN) — The head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, said in Lagos today that the 1983 general elections produced a government which was imposed on the people through political thuggery and large-scale bribery.

He told members of the diplomatic corps at State House, Marina, that the money that had been amassed by politicians from inflated contracts, kick-backs and other corrupt practices were used for the "shameless rigging and widespread perversion of the electoral process."

Maj Gen Buhari said that it was clear that the political leadership that emerged in 1979 showed that the politicians had learned nothing between the First and Second Republics. The ordinary Nigerian, he said, had the fundamental right to live in dignity but had become enslaved by a handful of Nigerians "whose main interest was not only to perpetuate themselves in office at any cost but also to share the wealth of the country."

He said that the continuation of the presidential system as practiced in Nigeria in the last four years would have sunk Nigeria into the abyss of total economic collapse and political chaos. The Armed Forces, he said, could not as patriots fold their arms and remain unconcerned pretending that all will be well.

Maj Gen Buhari told the diplomats to be objective in reporting the situation in Nigeria to their various countries. This, he said, would enable their countries to form the right judgement of the development of the last few days.

Will Not Condone Interference

AB041853 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Earlier today, General Buhari has met with members of the diplomatic corps in Lagos and took them into confidence over the status quo. He asked the diplomats to report the true situation to their own governments. He was not begging the issue though, because he made it known with military exactitude that although his administration wished to remain on friendly terms with foreign nations, it will not condone any overtures and interference in its domestic affairs.

Buhari Addresses State Military Governors

AB050845 Lagos NAN in English 0829 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 4 (NAN) — The head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, today in Lagos urged newly-appointed military governors to ensure that salary arrears of all category of staff in their states were cleared within the next four months.

Speaking after the swearing-in of the governors at Dodan Barracks, Maj Gen Buhari said that he would call for reports to confirm if the arrears had been paid at the end of the four-month period. He also said that by the end of April, he would expect a report from each of the governors on the action taken to review the 1984 budget prepared by the ousted administration, adding that the reports should contain proposals on more efficient management of resources.

The head of state told the governors that in performing their duties they must see themselves as servants and not as masters of the people. He said that although the problems in the states were enormous, the situation would not be accepted as a valid reason for failure by any military governor to record visible results in the achievement of the priority objectives of the administration.

Maj Gen Buhari told the military governors to regard their assignment as service posting and that they could be redeployed at any time depending on the exigency of the situation. He said that the governors were answerable to the chief of staff, supreme headquarters, who is responsible for the coordination of state administrations.

Country Will Remain 'Total Member' of OPEC

AB041235 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The new Federal Military Government [FMG] today declared that Nigeria will remain a total member of the OPEC. In a statement in Lagos today, the Federal Government said it was embarrassed by a statement credited to a member of OPEC as to whether the new Nigerian Government will opt out of the organization. The statement said that if there was any compelling reason for Nigeria to change its position in the membership of OPEC, it would consult the other members of the organization.

Former Minister, NPN Chairman 'Wanted Persons'

AB041811 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The Federal Military Government has declared Alhaji Umaru Dikko, former minister of transport and aviation, and the former National Party of Nigeria, NPN, chairman, Chief Adisa Akinloye, wanted persons.

The Oyo State police commissioner, Mr Nuhu Aliyu, has said that Chief Adisa Akinloye escaped to London. He told newsmen that the former NPN chairman escaped through Shaki town in

the northern part of Oyo State on the border between Nigeria and the Republic of Benin. The police commissioner said that the police was reliably informed that Chief Akinloye left Nigeria on Saturday soon after the military coup. The Oyo State Police Command declared Chief Akinloye wanted on Monday along with other politicians who have served in the civilian administration in Oyo State and at the federal level since 1979.

Nigerian Airways Resumes Normal Operations

AB041802 Lagos NAN in English 1536 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Ikeja, Jan 4 (NAN) — Normal flight operations were resumed today by the Nigerian Airways on the local and international routes following the opening of the country's airspace and the airports by the Federal Military Government.

However, flights to Kano, Maiduguri, Makurdi and Calabar were cancelled today due to bad weather. Airways officials said that normal flights to the affected states would resume as soon as the weather improved.

The Nigerian Airways press affairs manager, Mr Femi Ogunleye, confirmed to newsmen that all Nigerian Airways planes stranded at airports outside the [country] since the military take over had returned to base.

Reportage on Conditions in Federation's States

Former Bendel Politicians Report

AB032200 Lagos NAN in English GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Benin, Jan. 3 (NAN) — Twelve former political office holders in Bendel including the state's former deputy governor, Mr. Ray Inije have reported themselves to the State Police Command as instructed by the new military administration.

The state police commissioner, Mr. Potter Dabup told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN): Today in Benin that among those who had reported are: The former secretary to the state government, Mr Michael Ode, special adviser on information, Mr. Andy Akporugo and a former legislator, Mr. Christopher Ekpenma. Others, he said, are: The former speaker of the State House of Assembly, Chief Louis Ijeoma, former commissioner of health, Mr. Francis Nwajei, former commissioner for energy and public utilities, Dr. Emmanuel Usenbo and Chief James Sado former state attorney general.

A former special assistant in the governor's office, Dr. Godwill Ogboghodo, former legislators, Josiah Ohiwerei, and Dick Okungbowa as well as the former commissioner for local government and chieftaincy affairs, Dr. Omokaro Izeubigie had also reported, the commissioner added.

The state police commissioner also disclosed that thirty six persons among them two women were arrested in Benin alone for breaking the (?curfew) last night. [Passage indistinct] were apprehended by men of the police force for still keeping out at night after the hour of 7 p.m. Commissioner Dabup however, later warned and discharged all the offenders in the hope that they would have learnt their lesson.

Former Ogun Officials Arrested

AB050750 Lagos NAN in English 0738 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Abeokuta, (Ogun), Jan 4 (NAN) — The former governor of Ogun, Chief Bisi Onabanjo, and his deputy, Chief Sesan Soluade, are now under arrest at the instance of the National Security Organization (NSO).

Among others who have been kept in the custody are the former minister of national planning, Chief Mrs Ebun Oyagbola, and the state's former presidential liasion officer, Chief Olu Sotayo.

Those who were supposed to report for interrogation today are Chief Olu Awostesu, Prince Adeleke Adedoyin and Mr Kehinde Sofola, the former minister of justice and attorney-general, and Chief Olu Adebayo, the former presidential (?assistant) on information.

[Words indistinct] Brigade Commander Lt-Col Abdul-Karim Adisu today appealed to thos who were supposed to report to the police but have not done so to comply in their own interest, particularly Chief Soji Odunjo. He said that it was also criminal for those who appeared once to decide to stay away.

In another development, a deputy commissioner of police in charge of operations, Thomase Lucas, had warned former public officers who served at any time during the period October 1979 to December 30, 1983, to report in his office at Eleweran, the command headquarters. Former ministers, commissioners and former political appointees at both federal and state levels who are of Ogun origin. [sentence as received]

Oyo Authorities on Martial Law

AB041453 Ibadan Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The military authority in Oyo State says it will not hesitate to impose martial law in any area of the state where peace is threatened. In a statement in Ibadan, the military authority said it had received information that thugs of banned political parties were taking the law into their hands by attacking their opponents. It said that it has directed the Army and the police to arrest any person disturbing public peace.

Soldier Killed in Plateau Market

AB051217 Lagos NAN in English 1201 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Jos, Jan 5 (NAN) — A soldier died of gunshots in the Jos main market during a scramble by soldiers and civilians to force down prices of essential commodities on Monday, the public relations department of the 3rd Armoured Division said in Jos.

A statement form the department said that the soldiers who took part in the scramble were off duty, and acted without authority.

In a bid to contain the situation, some troops were deployed to the market and during the confusion, an officer had "an accidental discharge" which hit the soldier, the statement said. It added that a regimental board of inquiry had been set up to investigate the incident.

Meanwhile, armed soldiers have been drafted to main markets in the city to ensure law and order.

Commentary Claims Coup Met With 'Sigh of Relief'
AB042021 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] It was 4 years and 3 months ago that the military government of General Olushegu Obasanjo handed over power to civilians. What that administration did was to respect the yearnings of the masses of our people for a democratic form of government. The thesis of the then administration was that indeed 13 years was a period long enough for politicians and their followers to have learned some lessons. The lessons, so the administration believed, should manifest themselves in political tolerance, adherence to democratic principles of free and fair political competition, and, of course, good government.

Good government was explained to mean provision of basic amenities to the people, dynamic economic policies which should aim at minimizing rising cost of living and at the same time bring about much improved condition of living. Good government also suggests living by example; that is, the government itself should set the pace for the rest of Nigerians to follow. In specific terms, the civilian administration was expected to be exceptionally careful about those vices which wrecked the First Republic. These are corruption, abuse of office, and nepotism.

Objective analysts of the Nigerian situation had said, right from the outset, that the return to civil rule would be justified by the way the civilian government treated those unwritten but conventional expectations. That is, the government would be made or doomed, depending on how it went about fulfilling those expectations.

In 4 years or so of experimental democracy, there is a pervasive air of disappointment that the country has been badly hurt by the civilian administration. What has happened in the last 4 years is the antithesis of what the previous government and the generality of our people had expected. The facts are too glaring for any pretenses: First, there was political intolerance everywhere. Today, some families have lost their kith and kin, in some cases the breadwinner, in the do-or-die political race. Power became an instrument of a defined limited personal and group interest. And so, politicians were prepared to do anything, no matter how foul, to obtain and retain political power. The atmosphere became so charged and so clumsy that it was hard to sift between the grain and the chaff. The real loser had been the masses and the country and some price has been paid. That price was paid because the leadership displayed stack lack of ability to handle the situation. Instead, with every passing day, there was ample evidence of someone at the helm of affairs leaving this country sink. The argument that the worldwide recession caused the oil glut which reduced earnings from oil became so monotonous that it degenerated into mere propaganda stuff to hide the government's inability to properly manage the economy.

While the government was standing on the rooftop complaining about poor oil sales, some of those in the executive and legislative arms of government were (?relaxing in soft) living. Millions of naira were being voted to pay salaries and allowances, and to meet the cost of the comfort of their official quarters. Meanwhile, there was little or no evidence of serious and brisk government business. Prices were going up at unbelievable rates. The government watched as the people were being mugged to their bones. Instead of coming to the rescue of the masses, the government told the people to prepare for worse times. They were told that the subsidy on this or that would be withdrawn. By so doing, the people would have been asked to pay more for services that in the first place do not go round and are evidently insufficient.

Our foreign image too became nothing to be proud about as we sank deeper and deeper into foreign debt beyond what is economically justifiable. In addition, smuggling and illegal trading in the naira became thriving business. The long and short of it was that the civilian government packed in its embryo what could eventually lead to its own demise. This was why the events of the early hours of the New Year's Eve appear not to have come to the ordinary man as a surprise. Lately, he had been privately expecting a radical change. As a Nigerian historian said: A people have a way of asking for and getting the desired change once the pages of their diary of grievances are full. Apparently, the new military rulers know this. The government has, in the first instance, satisfied the masses that it is in complete understanding of the reasons for the people's desire for change. The government itself has enumerated the problems and has pledged to rise to the occasion as it is equal to the task. The people themselves have heaved a sigh of relief which in itself is a sign of approval of the predisposition to support the new administration to success in its onerous task of rebuilding this country out of its present economic ruins.

Press Editorials Reported in Wake of Coup
AB041050 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Press review]

[Text] The *GUARDIAN*, the *DAILY TIMES*, the *NATIONAL CONCORD*, as well as the *DAILY STAR*, the *SATELLITE*, the *NEW NIGERIAN*, *the NIGERIAN TRIBUNE*, *and the DAILY SKETCH* continue to closely examine the factors that led to the change of government. The papers suggest areas where the new military government should focus in solving the nation's prevailing economic situation.

The *GUARDIAN* urges the new military government to work out new approaches to facilitate the implementation of its programs. It suggests that the Supreme Military Council should take the best advice from the country's technocrats and managers. The *GUARDIAN* proposes that the new military government should

also address itself to the problems of foreign debt. In addition, the paper is of the opinion that business should be carried out on the basis of irreversibly confirmed letters of credit with payments over an agreed time. On the importation of food, the *GUARDIAN* says the measure should be seen only as short-term, while efforts should be geared toward producing more food internally. The paper also advocated the reestablishment of an effective price control board with an efficient distributive system.

The *DAILY TIMES* praises the efforts of some soldiers in ensuring the reduction of prices of foodstuffs in Lagos. The paper, however, notes that the soldiers have carried out the exercise to an extreme. To effectively check high prices, the *TIMES* supposes that manufacturers and importers should be assisted to distribute their goods straight to the retail traders at reasonable prices. Furthermore, the paper says cooperative shops and supermarkets should constitute the markets and channels.

In its own contribution, the *NATIONAL CONCORD* deliberates on corruption and public accountability. The paper is of the view that to serve as a good example, the new military rulers should endeavor to declare their assets publicly. To sufficiently stem corruption, the *CONCORD* urges that those who have embezzled the nation's funds should be severely punished while their ill-gotten goods should be recovered.

The *SATELLITE*, in a similar appeal, calls on the new military administration to retrieve all looted money and punish those that are found guilty. The paper, in conclusion, joins other Nigerians in welcoming the new Federal Government.

The *DAILY STAR* points out that any society under an incompetent leadership will be corrupt. It observes, however, that the new military government will bring back sanity to Nigeria that is becoming morally and economically bankrupt.

The *NEW NIGERIAN*, in examining the reasons that led to the change of government, says that the way the people welcome the new military administration shows that no government should ignore the people it governs.

The *NIGERIAN TRIBUNE*, in its own contribution, suggests that immediate attention should be given to the increased supply of electricity and infrastructures as well as the revamping of agriculture.

The *DAILY SKETCH*, on its part, urges the new administration to critically examine the judiciary. The paper is of the opinion that the judiciary harbors some people in the bench who had been dancing to the tunes of the politicians.

The *PUNCH* focuses on recent reports that soldiers are forcing down prices of some retail commodities. While the paper supports the action, it, however, says that rather than clamming [as heard] on retail traders, attention should be directed more to the middlemen.

The *NIGERIAN STATESMAN* emphasizes the need for workers to change their attitude to work. The paper says that as workers throughout the country settle down to another year of hard work, they should show greater dedication and zeal to duty. The *STATESMAN*, however, calls on all employers of labor to show greater concern for the welfare of their employees.

The *NIGERIAN HERALD* is among papers without editorial.

SENEGAL

Abdou Diouf's New Year Message Reported

AB041358 Paris AFP in French 0832 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Dakar, 1 Jan (AFP) — Senegalese Head of State Abdou Diouf reaffirmed that he "will never compromise on the issue of national unity." He made this statement in his New Year's message while recalling the separatist demonstrations in Casamance (southern Senegal), which caused 28 deaths in December.

"I will neither flinch nor hesitate when I must check all such forms of sedition. I will see to it that national order is respected with rigor, firmness, and determination," declared President Diouf, who exhorted "the Senegalese nation to close ranks in order to vigorously fight these moves."

Upon receiving the New Year's wishes of Muslim and Christian religious leaders, the head of state invited them to support the state in its determination to suppress all forms of sedition and all threats to Senegal's territorial integrity. He also asked them to work for the consolidation of the nation and its unity.

President Diouf said that Senegal's economic prospects would be very difficult due to this year's catastrophic drought and the correspondingly poor performance of agricultural production. Both of these factors will have a negative impact on economic development. However, the Senegalese head of state does foresee a considerable recovery in production and foreign earnings thanks to the investment program, which places emphasis on projects that are directly productive, particularly in the agricultural, industrial, tourism, fishing, and mining sectors.

President Diouf concluded by noting that the profile of Senegal's economic and financial accounts was "satisfactory" in relation to the set objectives for the first 6 months of 1983-84 [as received]. He declared that this orientation will be maintained by limiting state expenditure and pursuing a policy of austerity and rigor.

UPPER VOLTA

Former Head of State Denies Embezzlement Charges

AB041405 Paris AFP in English 0730 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, Jan 4 (AFP) — The first of Upper Volta's former political leaders to be tried by a revolutionary tribunal since such people's courts were set up after last August's military coup denied here Tuesday having embezzled more than 490 million CFA francs (some 1.2 million dollars).

General Sangoule Lamizana, head of state from 1966 to 1980, agreed he had spent that amount, drawn from a special fund, but denied that a single franc had been misappropriated for his own

use. The money had been disbursed in accordance with regulations, Gen Lamizana said, producing vouchers accounting for about 50 million CFA francs. But the refused to adduce proof for the legitimacy of the other spending, arguing that it had concerned state security matters and that by law he was prevented from naming the recipients.

The tribunal's hearings are being broadcast live on national radio. The people's courts comprise three professional magistrates, three soldiers, and 10 militants from local revolutionary defense committees. Accused persons are not allowed a defence lawyer.

ANGOLA

Truce Acceptable 'Under Certain Conditions'

PA040405 Paris AFP in English 0340 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan 4 (AFP) — The Luanda government is ready to accept a South African offer of a truce in the fighting in southern Angola, but only under certain conditions.

These include an undertaking by Pretoria to start implementing an independence settlement for South African-ruled Namibia by March 15, according to a letter from Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar released here Tuesday.

President Dos Santos also said that the agreement must also be obtained of the Namibian Nationalist Southwest Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), and that South Africa must withdraw its troops from Angolan territory.

South Africa made its offer on December 15 of a 30-day suspension from January 31 of so-called "hot pursuit" operations against SWAPO guerrillas in southern Angola, provided that the Luanda government, its Cuban allies or SWAPO did not take advantage of the situation.

The offer was rejected by SWAPO and Luanda, which said that Pretoria must end its permanent occupation of southern Angola.

South Africa, which has always denied having a permanent troop presence north of the border, later admitted it had been fighting a "limited" campaign in southern Angola since December 6 to forestall the traditional SWAPO rainy season January offensive.

The South African offer came as the United Nations Security Council was about to debate a resolution condemning the South African presence in Angola. The resolution was passed by 14 votes to none, with the United States abstaining.

Official sources here said that Angola had lodged a new protest against South African military activity on its territory, which the Security Council would start discussing on Wednesday.

President Dos Santos said in his letter that South Africa should also agree not to make conditions extraneous to the Namibian conflict, a reference to Pretoria's demand that a settlement for the territory should be linked with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

President Dos Santos Delivers New Year Address

MB041200 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 2 Jan 84

[President Dos Santos' New Year's address to the nation; place and date not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] Despite the fact that our government has proclaimed a policy of peace and understanding among nations for the sake of peaceful coexistence [words indistinct] and international intimacy among states, our country has systematically been attacked by the Armed Forces of racist South Africa. [Words indistinct] undeclared war of aggression, South Africa [words indistinct] armed gangs of Angolan puppets conduct war [words indistinct]. Their destructive and [word indistinct] activities (?enjoy the support) of the most reactionary and bellicose circles of American imperialism, and a proof of this is that there has never been a firm condemnation by the U.S. Government of the acts of armed aggression by the Pretoria regime against Angola.

Despite the policy of terror and destabilization being carried out by the racist South Africans against our country, the UNITA armed gangsters have been playing a big role; and for this purpose they receive massive support in varied forms, such as light weapons, artillery, ammunition, means of transport and communications, helicopters, military training, South African military advisers, and mercenaries from other nationalities. It is in this context that, despite heavy defeats inflicted on them in 1975 and in the following years, the puppet armed gangsters have been carrying out acts of terrorism and sabotage against civilians and economic and military targets.

The armed attacks by the South African Army and its lackeys are increasingly directed against industrial enterprises, electric power stations, fuel depots, agricultural and pastoral regions, bridges, and communications means. They are directed toward destroying people's property and economic installations, and not only cause immense material damage but also are an effort to disorganize and hamper the country's economic activity.

On all fighting fronts, particularly on the military front and in production centers, our fighters and workers have been demonstrating heroic resistance in the face of enemy attacks by inflicting heavy blows against him. Thanks to organizational measures adopted to reallocate leading cadres and improve our troops' strength, we were able to strengthen the fighting ability and battle readiness of our Armed Forces, raise the moral and political qualities of our fighters, and strengthen military discipline in units and in the military administrative body.

The situation of the People's Defense Organization [ODP] has been defined with greater clarity within the Armed Forces, as has the people's defense system [words indistinct], and the principle of sole command, bringing the units and subunits of the ODP under the control of the commanders of military regions where they are found in time of war, has been put into effect. The coordination of activities between the Ministries of Defense, Interior, and State Security has improved and from our collective work we have been able to obtain more correct information on the internal enemy, particularly regarding the number of troops, arms, training centers, South African participation, support by some countries, and their sabotage activity in the rear guard.

Following praiseworthy work, the state security neutralized some networks of ambitious and dishonest individuals who devoted themselves to acts of economic sabotage, such as illegal trafficking in diamonds, trading kwanza for dollars or any other foreign currency outside the banking system, and other illegal activities. These were individuals who were consciously or unconsciously in the service of reaction, trying to undermine and destablize our

rear guard, and that is why they are now before revolutionary justice awaiting trial.

Another important task undertaken by the Ministry of Interior was to put an end to, or at least curb, speculation, the emerging of parallel markets, and organized theft of large quantities of products from enterprises, warehouses, and ports. This action will obviously give greater results if all our people understand that the aim is to protect the interests of the citizens who depend on their income for a living and if the people's vigilante brigades, mass organizations, and members of the party and the youth movement actively support the state bodies involved in their efforts to further improve our rear guard and if we concentrate our attention, strength, and means toward rendering support to our valiant soldiers and officers on the fighting fronts.

The department of propaganda and counterpropaganda has begun an important effort to unmask the propaganda of lies and slander by the enemy. This activity must be intensified to clarify and mobilize public opinion to recognize the justness of our struggle and to undermine the fighting morale of the armed gangsters and those giving them support from abroad.

On examining our fighting actions this year against the South African invaders and aggressors and the puppet armed gangsters they use to destabilize our country's life, we note that the results have been satisfactory. In general terms, the personal example given by the leaders in the struggle was noted at all levels. This example led many fighters, in turn, to demonstrate great spirit of sacrifice and courage by carrying out acts of bravery and heroism. They include the actions carried out in Cangamba, Mussende, Caiundo, Cahama, Mulondo, Cuvelai, and so on. To the brave soldiers and officers, including anonymous heroes of our people who in these and other areas fought selflessly, I convey proud homage today and the deep appreciation of the Angolan people for their firmness, courage, and devotion in defense of our fatherland. Examples like these should be emulated by all military units, all soldiers, sergeants, and officers, to constantly inflict blows on the enemy wherever he is found. We must maintain the military initiative in our hands, obstruct his movement, isolate him from the population, and annihilate him.

To achieve this objective it is necessary to continue applying the recommended measures and constantly maintain the fighting ability and the combat readiness of our defense and security forces. It is necessary to carry out ideological, political, and educational work to keep up the psychological state and morale of our fighters. It is necessary to strengthen military discipline and progressively improve the living conditions and education of our soldiers.

At a time when the enemies of our people have been launching another large-scale aggression against our republic, I also convey my greetings to all Angolan officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers, and sailors, as well as internationalists, reminding them of the absolute necessity to keep combat readiness and revolutionary vigilance high, because the enemy is now using the tactic of carrot and stick. On the one hand, he says he wants to negotiate peace in order to distract us; and on the other hand, he is carrying out major surprise military operations in order to try to eliminate our units.

We vehemently denounce before international public opinion the illegal presence in our territory of nine battalions, two companies, and three groups of the regular army of South Africa in the areas of Cahama, Mulondo, Cuvelai, and Cassinga, where they are carrying out a number of unprovoked attacks against military positions of our Armed Forces. Our military units will always put up a vigorous resistance against enemy attacks on our own territory.

Angola is a peaceful country and a victim of aggression. The international community is aware of this fact and demands the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all South African invading forces from our territory.

Comrades and fellow Angolans, as time passes by, it becomes clearer to our people that the economic battle and the war against our internal and external enemies are two activities which complement each other. In affected agricultural and pastoral areas or in industrial enterprises where we produce means of defense or vigilance, there is a greater possibility of enemy attacks to destroy plantations, steal livestock, or sabotage installations and machinery. Therefore, we must take note of this in the drafting of our defense and production plans and ensure where possible the development of the economy. It is not very difficult to define in all provinces or military regions the main areas of agrarian and industrial production or strategic areas of economic development. If the defense of these areas is well organized and safeguarded by military and paramilitary units as well as by the people themselves, they will be better able to carry out plans for the development of production.

The regional military councils can establish harmony between the defense plans and production plans as well as carry out further study with the Ministries of Planning and Defense of necessary measures to guarantee the coordination between the national plan and the provincial plans or programs.

In the year 1984, special attention should be given to liaison between defense and production in order to frustrate the enemy intentions, and assure the gradual but safe development of the national economy. Our objective is to organize an economy which supports the war and at the same time to wage war to defend the economy. I repeat: Our objective is to organize an economy which supports the war and at the same time to wage war to defend the economy. That was why it was decided to name 1984 the year of defense and production.

This is even more important in view of the fact that we have experienced all the negative aspects resulting from the economic and financial crisis that has been ravaging the world and that has grown worse during 1983 with serious repercussions for the lives of the underdeveloped peoples. Actually, the unjust nature of international economic relations during this period has been even more evident. We have witnessed an unprecedented rise in the U.S.dollar in relations to other currencies, with pernicious effects on interest rates in the finance markets. Thus, the high interest rates charged by the big finance groups have prevented the underdeveloped countries from carrying out their development programs because the conditions for access to foreign credit and finance have substantially been aggravated. Monopolies have represented the same [words indistinct] on the economy and in

some cases have endangered the political independence of various states.

Trade between the developed capitalist countries and underdeveloped and developing countries (?has fallen) and the (?UNCTAD) conference has failed. In this context, which does not show signs of improvement and [words indistinct], our country has actively taken part in regional and continental cooperation groups while seeking to establish South-South cooperation in the framework of the group of Portuguese-speaking African countries, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference states, and certain [words indistinct].

Internally, the negative aspects of the current economic and financial conditions, coupled with the war situation which has been imposed upon us by the hideous Pretoria regime and which makes inevitable and necessary the permanent channelling and [words indistinct] financial, material, and human resources for the defense of the fatherland, have affected the prospects of the economic conditions of our people. This situation has forced us to adopt rigid standards for the (?use) of public expenditures and to strengthen the [word indistinct] of the emergency programs which basically affect the [words indistinct] of our people.

During 1983 it has been possible to correctly identify the program of action to be carried out, its details, numbers, and [words indistinct]. Moreover, administrative, technical, financial, and legislative conditions have been created and will enable [words indistinct] in 1984 to significantly increase [words indistinct] the number of programs in progress.

Meanwhile, after [words indistinct] the emergency plans, other tasks envisaged in the national plan have been carried out, although the results that have been achieved in most of the sectors have been below our expectations. As an example, the fishing harvest of both the national and foreign fleets has suffered a decline compared to 1982. Such a situation is mainly due to [words indistinct] problems and to the shortage of capable cadres in the important province of [words indistinct]. However, adequate measures have been adopted at the right moment by the Council of Ministers.

In agriculture a significant drop in production has taken place. In this sector, it is imperative to carry out the guidelines of the first congress, particularly with regard to peasant production, increasing production in the state sector, organizing entrepreneurs, and providing better technical assistance to the organs and cadres.

The industry, transportation, construction, and energy sectors have been facing difficulties with regard to technical assistance. [passage indistinct]. In the petroleum sector there has been a general increase in production and its [words indistinct] the 2 previous years. [passage indistinct]

I also appeal to party members and all the people to fully engage themselves in the preparation for the party national conference, which will essentially examine our economic situation in depth and prepare the themes for the second ordinary congress of the party due to take place in 1985.

I hail the members of our trade unions and the members of our Central Trade Unions for the work carried out in preparation for the regional conferences. I hope that the forthcoming Central Trade Unions congress will enable the appraisal [words indistinct] mobilization of Angolan workers. Let the congress truly be a congress of all Angolan workers — a congress that will enable us to reinforce the role of the trade unions in the training and education of the working class and in the struggle for economic reconstruction, the building of socialism and peace.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

1984, the year of defense and production.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

Luanda Claims Further CBW Use, UNITA Defeats

MB050939 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The South African Air Force and artillery continue to bomb the village of Cuvelai, using chemical products in disregard of the international norms which prohibit their utilization. The bombings have also extended to other positions of the Angolan resistance, particularly the location of Caiundo in Cuando Cubango.

Meanwhile, UNITA continues to suffer defeats in various parts of the country in the face of the offensive mounted by the Angolan fighters. Another five terrorists were killed by the Peole's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola in 2 days of recent fighting in the areas of Nharea in Bie Province and Dala in Lunda Sul. In addition, one UNITA soldier was taken prisoner and a quantity of military materiel of South African origin was captured.

BOTSWANA

Opposition Party Predicts Chaos After Elections

MB041520 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The opposition Botswana National Front, BNF, claims in its New Year message to its supporters that if the ruling Botswana Democratic Party, BDP, wins this year's general elections, there will be general discontent in the country. A BNF spokesman, Mr (Ntimme), told a gathering in Molepolole in what he called a New Year message that his party believed that the BDP would continue cheating in the election in order to stay in power. Mr (Ntimme) suggested that the ruling party has failed to provide employment for Botswana, and that relatives of top politicians within the BDP ranks were being overlooked, even when they owed huge sums of money. Mr (Ntimme) made other incriminating allegations about civil servants, even mentioning personalities. Mr (Ntimme), however, said that the chaos he was predicting would not be precipitated by the BNF, although he tied it closely to the BDP win and the BNF loss in the general election.

The message is the latest political outburst by the BNF as the election campaign gains momentum. The date for the general election has not been disclosed, but it is constitutionally set for this year. The last general election was held in October 1979.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Addresses Reception for Diplomatic Corps

MB041350 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] President Samora Machel said in Maputo yesterday that during 1984 Mozambique would continue its efforts in search of peace, tranquillity, and stability. The Mozambique head of state was addressing the ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of international organizations on the occasion of the new year.

Field Marshal Samora Machel also stressed in his speech that nobody now doubted that the destabilizing agent in the southern African region was the racist Pretoria regime. He added that based on this understanding, constructive solutions can be found to achieve peace and stability in the region.

We are a peaceful country. We support good neighborliness and peaceful coexistence, Field Marshal Samora Machel pointed out, reiterating that it was within the framework of the application of the socialist policy of peace that Mozambique has been holding talks with the South African authorities.

President Samora Machel appealed for the support of the international community, particularly the countries represented in Mozambique, with a view to making the destabilizing force adopt a realistic and sensible attitude instead of continuing with the application of belligerent, expansionist, and neocolonialist solutions. Accordingly, President Samora Machel noted Mozambique's conditions for reaching a basis for understanding between South Africa and our country, namely, that the South African Government should cease its support for the armed bandit groups, which it created in order to politically and economically destabilize our country.

President Samora Machel also announced yesterday that he would soon hold a meeting with the ambassadors of the United States, USSR, France, the PRC, and Great Britain to make a review of the peace dinner held in Maputo a year ago. Field Marshal Samora explained that at the next dinner, in addition to the diplomatic representatives of the five countries which are permanent members of the UN Security Council, the dean of the diplomatic corps and ambassador of the Kingdom of Swaziland, Christian Masuku, would also be present.

The supreme leader of the Mozambique revolution recalled that the results of the peace dinner were positive because, according to him, there was a consensus in the condemnation of apartheid, the cause of destabilization in our region.

We shall fix the day for the review — maybe in February — to undertake new actions, since the world is aware that southern Africa needs peace, President Samora Machel added.

The Mozambique head of state also said that our country has a vital role to play in this region, because when it obtained independence through the armed struggle it also freed itself from prejudices and eliminated race superiority. It has this vital role because it occupies a strategic position as the exit for the countries of the hinterland and due to its location in the Indian Ocean area with a sea route to the world and all the implications of this.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Condemns S. African Incursion into Angola

EA041231 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Namibia: The South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO of Namibia, has strongly condemned fascist Pretoria's bomb attacks on Angolan territory. In a communique issued in Luanda, SWAPO rejected the claim by the racist regime that the attacks were directed against a SWAPO military base. The communique pointed out that in the area concerned there were neither Namibian citizens nor SWAPO military installations.

SWAPO demands the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the racist troops from Namibia and Angola. The Pretoria fascists have once again thrown in their largest military forces deep inside the sovereign territory of independent Angola. According to reports from Angola, the fascists have launched a three-pronged invasion of Angola with forces moving towards the northwest, north, and northeastern parts of southern provinces of Angola from the Cunene Province which they have defiantly occupied for the past 18 months now.

Military reports from Angola say there are three militarized [as heard] brigades of the fascists heavily armed with some of the most modern sophisticated weapons of destruction. This heavy military invasion is alleged to be aimed at preempting some imaginary SWAPO freedom fighters who are supposed to be infiltrating into Namibia from imaginary bases in Angola.

'Excuse' To Invade Angola

MB050743 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The South African raid into Angola is not aimed against SWAPO but against Angola. That is the allegation from SWAPO information secretary Peter Manning. The South African Defense Force claims it has killed 56 SWAPO guerillas and destroyed SWAPO headquarters in its incursion into Angola. Manning denies these claims:

[Begin recording] The facts of the South African operation show that it is against Angolan military, economic, and civilian targets and not against SWAPO. SWAPO is fighting in Namibia, and if they want to get at our forces they should do so there. It is just another excuse on the part of the South African regime for an invasion of Angola. [end recording]

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Confirms Soviet Warning on Angola

MB041720 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1715 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Pretoria, Jan 4, SAPA — The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, confirmed today that the Soviet Union had warned Pretoria in November last year that it would not tolerate the overthrow of the Angolan Government by South African-supported rebels. Representatives of the Soviet Union had approached a South African diplomat in connection with the SWA/Namibian question and the conflict in Angola "to pass a message from the Government of the Soviet Union to the South African Government," Mr Botha said in a statement issued in Pretoria. He was reacting to international reports this week of a warning from Moscow to Pretoria.

The foreign minister emphasised, however, that the South African ambassador to the United States, Mr Brand Fourie, was not involved, as had been reported. Mr Fourie has also denied having received a Soviet warning on Angola.

Mr Botha said the main content of the Russian's message had been concern at the fact that the situation in SWA/Namibia had become "more acute" than ever and that the continued occupation of Angolan territory by South African forces was unacceptable — as was South Africa's support for the UNITA "anti-government rebels." The Russians had also said South Africa would be unreasonable not to take advantage of the continued opportunity for a speedy solution to the SWA/Namibian problem and the withdrawal of South African forces from Angola. Cuban withdrawal, as a prerequisite for a settlement in SWA/Namibia, would under no circumstances be achieved by the Americans, as the "Chester Crocker cycle" (a reference to diplomatic efforts by America's African envoy) had now ended and it would be in South Africa's interest to acknowledge this reality, the Russians said.

Mr Botha added that the message had said the USSR was tied to Angola by an agreement of friendship and cooperation, and that it would give Luanda all the support it needed to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Russians had concluded by saying their message should not be regarded as a threat, but that it was meant to make South Africa aware of the "logical and reasonable consequences" of its actions, and to ensure the republic came to the "right conclusions."

Mr Botha said the South African representative had replied that it would be difficult for the South African Government to see anything other than a threat in the Soviet message. "If this is the case, the South African Government would see the message in an extremely negative light, and South Africa will not allow itself to be intimidated by such threats," the representative had said.

Although an escalation of the conflict was not in the interest of either South Africa or the Soviet Union, Pretoria would protect its own security interests against whoever threatened them. "South Africa sees the worsening situation in Southern Africa as the direct result of Soviet-inspired actions and the presence in the area of Russian surrogates. South Africa is fully aware of the cooperation between the Cubans, FAPLA and SWAPO in Angola and finds it necessary to work against any threat to the area, regardless of its origin," the representative had said.

Mr Botha declined further comment on the discussion between the representatives of the two governments. He also would not comment on whether any follow-up discussions had taken place.

Ambassador to UN Reviews RSA Truce Terms

MB041811 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1754 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Pretoria, Jan 4, SAPA — The South African Government's offer of a military disengagement in Angola still stood, but the Angolan Government would have to comply with conditions for peace, South Africa's United Nations ambassador, Mr Kurt von Schirnding, said tonight. He was replying during a special Security Council session on escalating conflict in southern Angola to Luanda's conditional acceptance yesterday of the South African offer to begin withdrawing its troops from the area at the end of January. His address to the Security Council was released tonight in Pretoria.

After first rejecting the offer outright, the Angolan president Jose Eduardo dos Santos, accepted — on condition that South Africa pulled its forces out of Angola and set a mid-March launch date for the SWA/Namibia independence process.

"The South African offer still stands," Mr Von Schirnding said in a speech to the Security Council. "The Angolan Government is, however, the one which will have to comply with the conditions for peace, not the South African Government."

The language of the South African offer was clear: If Angola desired peace, it could have it by not allowing SWAPO to operate from its territory and by not exploiting any arrangement for the cessation of hostilities.

According to defence authorities, South African troops have engaged in a "limited pre-emptive operation" against SWAPO forces in southern Angola since the beginning of December. However, Angola alleges that heavily armed South African forces including paratroops, tanks and helicopters are trying to push further north in fierce fighting, having already engaged Angolan troops more than 200 km north of the SWA/Namibian border.

Mr Von Schirnding referred to the Angolan condition that South Africa should "solemnly" promise "without extraneous conditions" to initiate the seven-month process leading to UN-supervised elections in SWA/Namibia within 15 days of the military disengagement. "South Africa has stated it remains prepared to begin the process of implementation (of UN Resolution 435) ... upon resolution of the problem of Cuban forces in Angola. That remains South Africa's position," Mr Von Schirnding said.

Earlier in his speech, the ambassador said it was hypocrisy for Angola to tell the Security Council that it wished to avoid a situation that would lead to "disastrous consequences." "It is the

actions of the Angolan regime in aiding and abetting SWAPO's terrorist aims and by supporting SWAPO to launch attacks from and maintain bases on Angolan territory which will lead to "disastrous consequences," unless the Luanda regime comes to its senses," he said.

Mr Von Schirnding said he had made it clear in the past that South Africa had no desire to control any Angolan territory and that its security operations in Angola had one objective — the protection of the inhabitants of SWA/Namibia from SWAPO attacks launched from Angola. "The so-called progressive moves by South African military units which the president of Angola has referred to, are being conducted with precisely that objective in mind."

The ambassador said South Africa had also made clear it would not allow SWAPO to operate with impunity from Angolan territory "where they planned and executed their acts of murder and pillage against the civilians of SWA/Namibia. "It is hypocrisy for Angola to have the effrontery to complain to this Council about the security operations of the South African military forces in the execution of their task to seek out and to destroy SWAPO bases in southern Angola in pre-emptive actions such as the one presently under way. South Africa has declared its intentions openly."

Mr Von Schirnding said the "Luanda regime" made no secret of its support for SWAPO. "It is also no secret that the forces of the Angolan regime are becoming increasingly integrated with the SWAPO murder gangs for whom they have provided facilities, arms and equipment," he claimed.

Mr Von Schirnding warned Angola against providing military support to SWAPO. He said if it interfered with South Africa's operations against the guerrilla movement, it "must bear the full responsibility for the consequences." "South Africa furthermore denies that its forces commit atrocities against the civilian population of Angola," he said.

"If the Luanda regime is so concerned with the threat to peace and security in the region, it should take the necessary steps to ensure that its territory is not used for the launching of aggression against its neighbours." He added that the presence of Cuban forces in Angola was a threat to peace and security in the region "and is leading Angola to disastrous consequences because its people refuse to succumb to the tyranny which has been imposed upon them with the direct assistance of the Cuban forces."

Government Apologizes for Assault on Zimbabwean
MB041559 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The government has formally apologized to Zimbabwe over an incident in which the Zimbabwean deputy trade commissioner in South Africa, Mr David Buyanga, was assaulted and apparently had his arm broken at a roadblock. Mr Buyanga was stopped at a roadblock near Louis Trichardt on the 29th of last month, and according to the deputy provincial secretary of the Transvaal, Mr Schalk Brits, he refused to allow the traffic officers to search his car. Mr Brits said that according to reports submitted to him, Mr Buyanga had also refused to give his personal particulars to the officers and had resisted arrest.

In a statement issued in Pretoria today, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said he had been informed of the incident on the evening of the 30 December. He said he and the South African Government viewed the matter in a very serious light. He said not only foreign representatives but also the South African public in general were entitled to courteous treatment irrespective of their color. After the incident Mr Buyanga had been taken to the police station at Louis Trichardt, and Mr Botha thanked the police for their assistance. Mr Botha said he had ordered that Mr Buyanga be given every assistance with regard to further travel arrangements and medical attention.

Police Announce ANC Operative Killed in Shootout
MB041505 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1500 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Pretoria, Jan 4, SAPA — A trained African National Congress terrorist was shot dead this morning in a shootout with police in a black township near Pretoria, the chief of the South African Security Police, Major-General Frans Steenkamp, has announced. The shootout started when security police and members of the police task force went to the man's house after receiving further information relating to the Pretoria car bomb blast last May.

"The dead man is a nephew of one of the terrorists who was responsible for the Church Street car bomb and who was in the explosion," General Steenkamp said in a statement in Pretoria. The South African Police had taken possession of a 9mm pistol of foreign origin. "A trained terrorist died of a gunshot wound at 8:15 am today during a shootout with members of the Security Branch and the task force of the South African police," General Steenkamp said. Members of the police had gone to the terrorist's house after receiving further information of the ongoing investigation into the May blast. "The police force members were shot at from inside the house and they returned the fire as well as throwing tear gas cannisters into it. The shooting from the house then stopped and the body of a known ANC terrorist was later found in the house," he said. The dead terrorist had received his training in Angola and had operated out of Swaziland and Mozambique. "He is a nephew of one of the terrorists responsible for the Church Street car bomb and who was killed in that explosion." General Steenkamp gave no further details of the man's identity and did not say in which black township the shootout took place. He added, however, that the man was wanted by Swaziland police for armed robbery, saying: "Police took possession of a 9mm pistol of foreign origin" and added an inquest would be held.

Botha Responds to Labor Party Call for Elections
MB050832 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] SAPA reports that the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, has responded to the decision by the Labor Party to call for early elections, instead of a referendum, on participation in the new

constitution by saying that it is the party's own choice. He says the government is awaiting official confirmation of the decision, which was taken at the party's national congress in Port Elizabeth. The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, says he stands by the prime minister's statement.

ANC Scores 'Cinderella' Illusions

MB041450 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The ANC has issued a call to delegates at the Labor Party conference. The ANC calls on delegates, in its words, to reject all attempts to drive the so-called colored people into Prime Minister Pieter Botha's apartheid constitutional schemes. The ANC says coloreds should not entertain any illusion of being Cinderella cousins to white South Africa. The ANC calls on the Labor Party to mobilize people against participation in any future referendum or elections on the constitution. It says the current conference will determine whether the Labor Party is for or against the people.

SWAZILAND

Testimony Begins in Sedition Trial of Princess

MB050726 Mbabane Television Service in Siswati 1630 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Princess Sidzandza Dlamini, charged with sedition and insulting the Swaziland Government, has been instructed by magistrate Reginald Dladla to reappear in court on 25 January 1984. Sidzandza Dlamini is charged with crimen injuria on the personalities of the authorized person, Prince Sozisa, and the queen regent, Ntombi, and also with displaying the photograph of the authorized person in a manner calculated to lower the public esteem of the prince.

Princess Sidzandza is alleged to have authored deprecatory pamphlets about members of the supreme state council, the Liqoqo, alleging that the members of that body were implicated in the murder of the late King Sobhuza II. At the beginning of the trial, the court heard that Princess Sidzandza reproduced a likeness of Prince Sozisa with an accompanying caption that read: The senior prince is intent on exercising customary sexual rights on Queen Ntombi as he is devoid of women of his own.

ZAMBIA

Angola's Da Moura Departs After Call on Kaunda

MB050728 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The Angolan vice minister for foreign affairs, Mr Venancio da Moura, left for home yesterday after paying a courtesy call on President Kaunda in the Luangwa South National Game Park. The minister was seen off at the international airport in Lusaka by political advisor to the president (Wilsted Phiri), Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Otima Musuka), and Zambia's ambassador to Angola, Mr Boniface Zulu. The Angolan minister arrived in the country on Tuesday.